ピアノの森

一色まこと

17

モーニングKC 1881

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一色まこと

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The Perfect World of KAI

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ISSHIKI Makoto

The Perfect World of KAI

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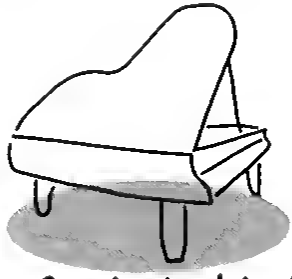

The Perfect World of KAI

17

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Hey, Amamiya.

A...

Adamski...

Congratulations on getting through the first round.

Thank...

This... This is the person I don't want to meet the most...

Chapter 148

Chopin's Will

Sorry, I'm not good with words...

This is the worst!!

Um...

I'm not sure what to say.

I never thought you wouldn't get through...

In fact...

I should be the one thanking you.

Haha... You don't have to say anything.

Sorry for making you uncomfortable.

Huh?

You don't have to apologize for something like this.

I was really impressed how you were able to calmly go through the interviews back there.

In fact...

I was so shocked I couldn't even stand on my feet when I heard the results.

I told you before...

About how you should be more easy-going* about winning, ranking results and all that. Such conceited words.

*QC/N *WINK WINK*

Now that I think about it, I always happen to meet you in the toilets.

S-Sorry for intruding...

No, it's alright.

Although I don't understand why it happened, I have already come to terms with the result.

Right now, I'm pondering on the reason behind my elimination. I still feel indignant, but I guess there's nothing to be done.

I can feel Adamski's pain...

I want to get out of here as quickly as possible!!

I shall reiterate this once again...
This competition is not merely for the sake of selecting the world's greatest pianist,
but also for the sake of commemorating the great man known to all as "Chopin"!

This is the Chopin Competition. As implied by the name, it has to be "Chopin".
....

Chopin is...

One cannot recreate the genuine "Chopin" without a thorough understanding of these matters...

In other words, Adamski needs to delve deeper into "Chopin" -

Into his way of living, his grief and sorrow...

It comprises dramatic songs that flashy stars like to play. He has not chosen any challenging pieces that emphasize finger dexterity.

Adamski has been a star since he was young. His basic training is lacking.

From his programme, you can see he hasn't worked hard enough.

Adams

ETAP

lo à la Mazur F-dur op.5

da c-moll op.10 nr 12

uda h-moll op.25 nr 10

ale As-dur op.34 nr 1

Scherzo cis-moll op.39

Nokturn c-moll op.48 nr 1

f-moll op.52

Is that really the case?

.....

Adamski's "Chopin" doesn't fit with the "Chopin" we have in mind.

That is to say...

This is the reason why he did not pass the first round.

Since there are laymen present, sorry for the lengthy explanation.

By "the Chopin we have in mind", are you referring to the way of playing the piano that resembles Chopin himself the most?

I have to ask precisely because I'm a layman.

Well done, Andrzej! Humiliate that little nosy reporter!

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
The way you say that, it's as if you listen to Chopin play right by his side all the time.
PAFFL
Yes, you could understand it that way.
The "Chopin" we all know and Chopin's own ideal "Chopin".
Can you really say that...
You've actually listened to a man who died 160 years ago play the piano?
Have any of you heard Chopin himself play in the flesh?

I don't believe there are any recordings either.

What an idiot...

ちざ

Simon Hausner.

I do not wish to waste time on such banal matters, so i will only say this once.

If that were the case.. Then there would be no point in this competition!

That's why he's a layman

Screw off, tabloid asshole...

ちざちざ

You do know that Chopin has left behind an abundance of music manuscripts written in his own hand, don't you?

These "Chopins", meticulously, painstakingly preserved by musicians in Poland through the years, reach out to us in present day.

Showing one's own personality within the scores is acceptable, but anything beyond that is not!
Because that goes against "Chopin's will".
These scores are "Chopin's will", which he has bestowed upon all of us

Any further explanations will be a waste of time. Are there any more questions?
I wish to move on to the next topic...

There are many different editions derived from the manuscripts left behind by Chopin...

What do you make of them?

Well said, Andrzej! That should shut him up.

Then, I'd like to ask...

The newest one...

was published by one of the judges in this competition...

Mr. Waldemar Ekiert, famous scholar of Chopin. His "Newly Revised Scores", more commonly known as the "Ekiert Edition",

is highly recommended for use in this competition.

Even after such extended study on the handwritten manuscripts that you regard as "Chopin s will",

there are still so many mysteries and uncertainties that we have no way of solving...

So is this "Ekiert Edition", regarded as the fruit of the most recent study published 150 years following Chopin s death,

the real Chopin? Do you believe this to be correct and valid?

Then how can you be certain that "the Chopin you have in mind" is absolutely unquestionable? This is my question!!

That s beside the point.

Escort him out!

Damn... Ekiert that bastard...

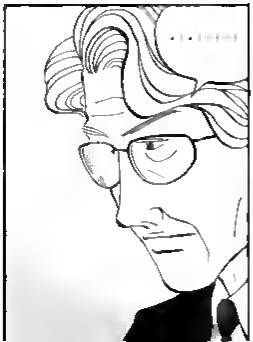
Why did he have to publish such a risky thing...

What are you doing?! Let go of me!!

I'm not finished!!

So only your idea of Chopin is correct?!!

Answer me!! Jasiński!!



ガヤ
ガヤ
Professor Ekiert, I have great admiration for you!
When the "Ekiert Edition" was first published, I rushed to buy it on the day it came out!
Ah, you flatter me.
My son joined the competition using the "Ekiert Edition", but he did not pass the first round.
Ah... What a shame.

I suppose I should have chosen pieces more suited for the competition...

Oh well, it doesn't matter. I'm no good anyways.

I'm too unlucky. I should just let it go.

I'd better go now.

Amamiya! Enjoy the second round!

Come on, don't make such a gloomy face with me.

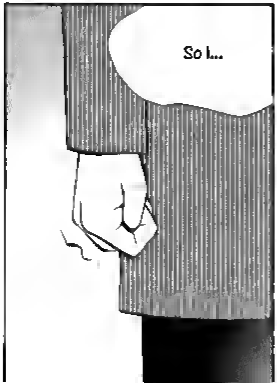
What?
I'm sure I won't be able to play happily.
I won't enjoy it.

You'll be able to play happily as long as you don't go too hard on yourself!
Getting into the second round is already very impressive!

Amamiya...?
Ah... What am I saying to him?
When I say I can't... I really mean I can't...

Thank you for comforting me...
But...
Don't worry.
I can't find the right words for it, but I think your piana shows wonderful character.
Sorry if I said something you didn't want to hear.

Because there is someone that I have to beat no matter what.
I still won't be able to play happily... I'm sure about that.


So I...

24 hours... No, 26 hours a day...

For this competition, I've worked harder than anyone else.

I've put in 120%... No, 200% of hard work, to accomplish that.

If I run away from this competition, Kai would probably not participate in another one ever again...

This is my last chance.

I...

I can't get any more hardworking than that...

I'm not trying to comfort you or anything. I'm just telling the truth.

S...

Sorry.

Seriously... What's wrong with you...

What's the matter with me...

I'm the one who got eliminated.

I...

Sorry.

For someone that got eliminated to comfort someone that got through... It's unheard of!

You said you've worked harder than ayone else? 120%, 200% of hard work?

Haha. Doesn't that mean I didn't practise at all?

Perhaps this doesn't apply to everyone, but the 30 semi-finalists, at the very least, have all worked hard like you.

Such presumptuous words are off-putting.

I don't want to be mean... but don't say things like, "I'm the only one working hard"!!

You said you've worked harder than anyone?

What are you, an ascetic?

It's just something everyone does as a matter of course!

It's just that, unlike you...

They do not think of it as hard work.

If that's how you want to think of it,

then why don't you go on and stop eating, sleeping, and practise till you drop?!

Who would want to listen to such highly-strung piano playing?
Who'd want to listen to it?

Why do you even play the piano?
You couldn't just be playing it for the sake of your own incarcerated self, right?

Chopin's Will END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Piano no Mori ch 148

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Artwork from "Piano no Mori"

Chapter 149

The Heart's journey

Why do you even play the piano?

You couldn't just be playing it for the sake of your own incarcerated self, right?

Ah...
Something inside...

has cracked.

They just do it as a matter of course...

Everyone's working as hard as I am...

But they don't think of it as hard work...

A...

Amamiya?

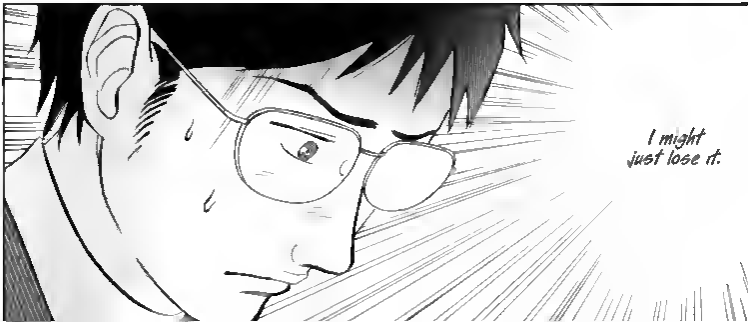
Sorry, Amamiya, I went a bit too far!!

Forget what I just said.

I...

I'm so stupid... I don't even know what's going on around me...
Adamski,
How long have you practised, then...?
Ah... What am I saying...
That sounded like I was denouncing him when he's already so nervous...

If I don't say something now to keep myself together...
I remember...
You said that you had bidden a beloved teacher farewell...


I might just lose it.

Haha...

I even told you about that, huh...

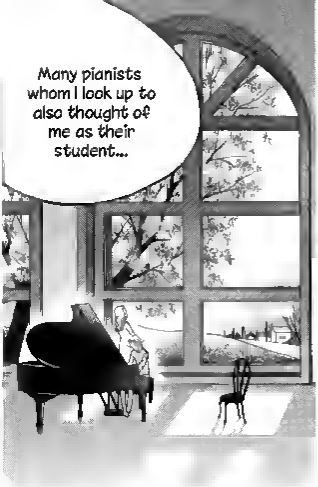
Ah... Raphael-sensei...

You're talking about Raphael Bernard-sensei, aren't you?

I once traveled with Chopin!

I followed his trail and gave free concerts along the journey...

to understand Chopin's heart.


Many pianists whom I look up to also thought of me as their student...

I spent about 3 years traveling to Warsaw, Vienna, Prague, Paris, Mallorca, and so on...
And several kind piano teachers mentored me.

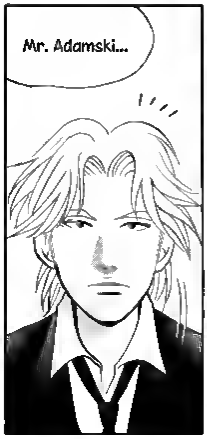
He taught me the basics... and all the important things.
But I always ended up going back to Raphael-sensei.

I kept...
recalling his voice, instructing me, as I was immersed in Chopin s music.

Ah... Even if he hadn't told me that...
Haha, even though I only traveled to understand Chopin... to become one with him...
In the end, it turned into a journey of self-discovery.
I'd still know very well...
that everyone had been working hard in their own way.
Dismissing everyone else as if they existed in some unrelated imaginary world...
I... I've been living in my own world...
Even Kai...
As if I were the only one in reality...

How much hard work has he put into that place of his?
That's right...
Even Kai...
But...
I have seen the proof of all his efforts...

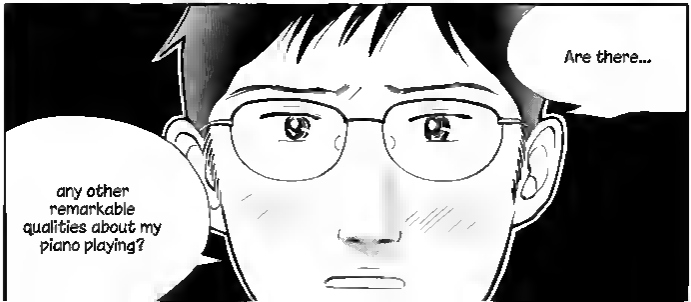
It's never even occurred to me...
just how hard Kai had practised on the piano.
I...
I have always been in an environment where I can play the piano anytime I feel like it...
But I chose to disregard it.
I must have known it deep in my heart...
It even bored me for a time...


Mr. Adamski...

I thought I had worked hard... harder than anyone else...
So hard, that I turned blind to everything else.
And yet, I...

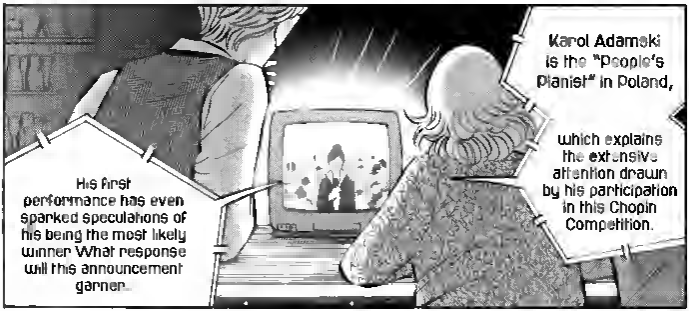
But if that is what everyone does as a matter of course...

I...
Working hard is really the only thing I can do.


Are there...
any other remarkable qualities about my piano playing?

Hey, Jacek...
Riiiiing...
Humph... I see.
So Simon Hausner got shooed away...
Other than that, the press conference was a bore...
Oh!
Adamski's elimination is being reported on the news right now!
He's still too green.
It's fine to jab at the judges, but pissing them off for real will only get you banned.

カシャ
カシャ
This is live from the Philharmonic Hall.
The announcement of the results of the first round concluded with the shocking elimination of Karol Adamski.


Karol Adamski is the "People's Pianist" in Poland,
which explains the extensive attention drawn by his participation in this Chopin Competition.
His first performance has even sparked speculations of his being the most likely winner. What response will this announcement garner...

I watched the live broadcast.
He's the one that played before Amamiya Jr.
I didn't expect he would be eliminated...

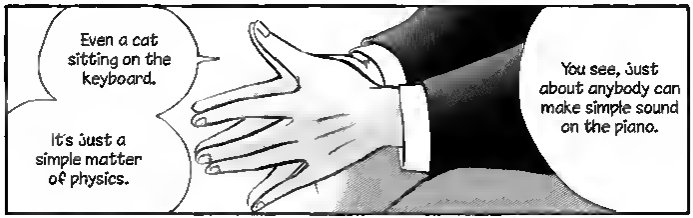
Whoa, Adamski didn't make it!

I...
Even Sousuke was eliminated before...
That's hardly surprising!
So I don't find it all that unbelievable!
What if you pass each other by...
We'll get there right away if we go by car.
I can't wait any longer. I'm worried about Kai.
Huh? Are you going there now?
Then Kai must be stuck in there, unable to leave!
The venue was really crowded in the news just now, right?

ガヤ、ガヤ、

Is...
Is there anything else that's special about my piano...

Really, the fact that I work harder than anyone else is my only source of comfort...
Are you seriously bothered by that?
Ahaha, what the heck?


Even a cat sitting on the keyboard.
It's just a simple matter of physics.
You see, just about anybody can make simple sound on the piano.

But that's also what makes it so hard... to give the piano our own voice.
That's why we try so hard to dazzle people with outstanding technique...

If the player tries so deliberately to perform well, his performance will contain no images.

The piano is ultimately only an instrument.

The ones doing the expressing are supposed to be us, Amamiya!

You can't convey yourself or your piano to others with just technique.

Your heart only belongs to you.

Simply put...

The selling point of your piano is you yourself, Amamiya...

You're everything to it.

Hahaha... Nonsense!

An empty shell can never put in so much effort, right?

I...

I just told you. I have nothing! I'm just an empty shell!

The one who brings the piano to life is you!

You get it?

But knowing you, you'll definitely be able to overcome it.

You must be under a lot of pressure as a second-generation musician...

Don't worry!

Your music is sincere and straightforward.

You're only 17!

Such an earnest performance from a 17-year-old is already very refreshing and charming in its own right.

I understand the feeling of wanting to beat someone.

It might not be a real victory, but you'll definitely be able to overcome this feeling with that earnest heart of yours.

and enfolded me...

Adamski's kind words...

have shattered an invisible shell...

That suffocating shell...

Well, I'd better be off!

Have some confidence, Amamiya!

Good luck!

Ah... Mr. Adamski,

one more thing.

Why do you play the piano?

I just want more people to listen to my music.

I want to share the piano, which has brought me so much joy, with more people... And also because I can make a living out of it!

Ah...
I've only ever played it to be acknowledged...
Have I ever played the piano for a reason as simple as "I want to share it with more people"?
I...

I haven't given him...
Adamski...

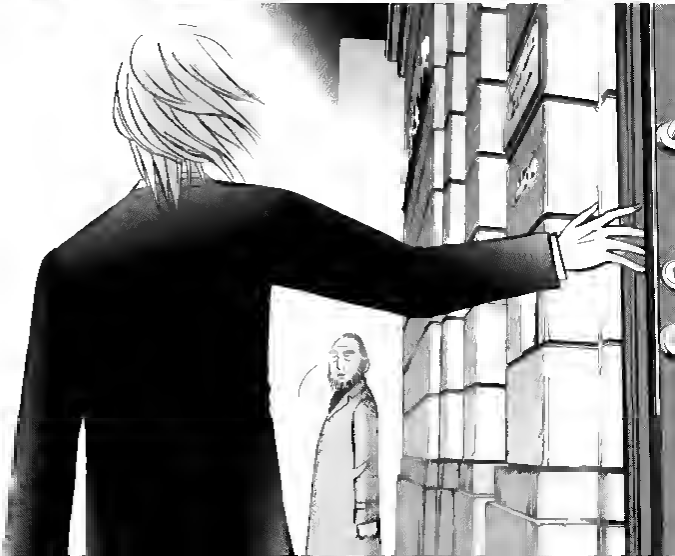
And he helped me so much...
Buzzzzz...

a single word of comfort...
or even shown him any sort of gratitude.

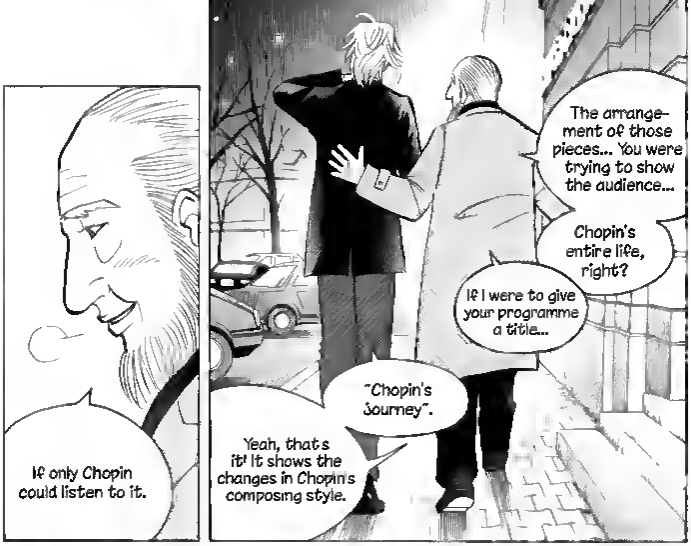
Ah... Father.
Uh... What? It's too noisy, I can't hear what you're saying.
What the hell was I thinking?
Preaching to Amamiya and giving him advice like some know-it-all...
I'm not even in the position to do so.
To gain the support of even more people.
I...
I wanted to let more people listen to my piano through this competition...

Will I ever be able to get back on my feet?
Can I move on with no support from anyone?
I guess the Muse of Music doesn't endorse...
such an impure motive.
But I was utterly defeated...

I...



Well, I'm staying at my relatives place during the competition...
I saw the news and thought you must be very upset...
Ra...
Raphael-sensei...
It's probably a bit nosy of me,
But I'm glad to see you. The regular entrance is packed with people, so I was right to wait at the private entrance.
Did sensei watch me play...?
Of course! I watched your performance live. I managed to get a ticket.



The Heart's Journey_END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

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Piano no Mori ch 149

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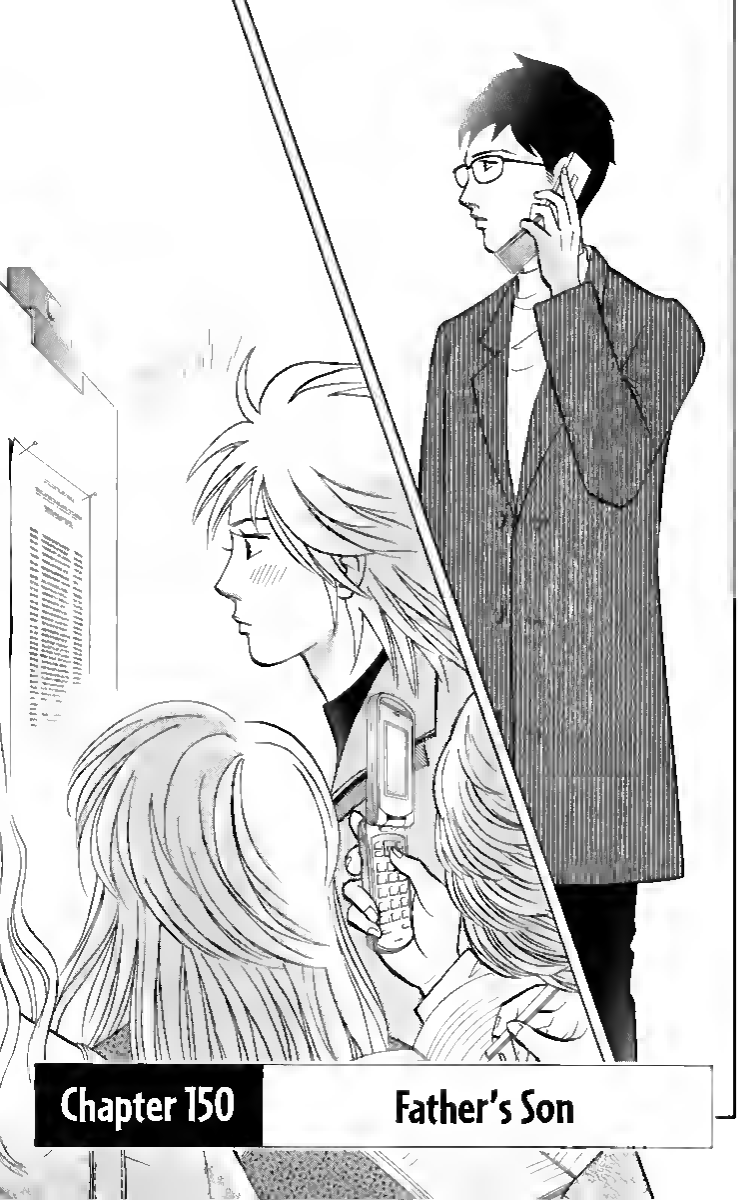


Chapter 150 Father's Son

Anyway, I'll be there right away!
Beep.
I'm sorry, Father!
It was so noisy that I couldn't hear anything at all.
Ah... It's cut.

Thank you, Adamski... I'll be going.

Adamski...

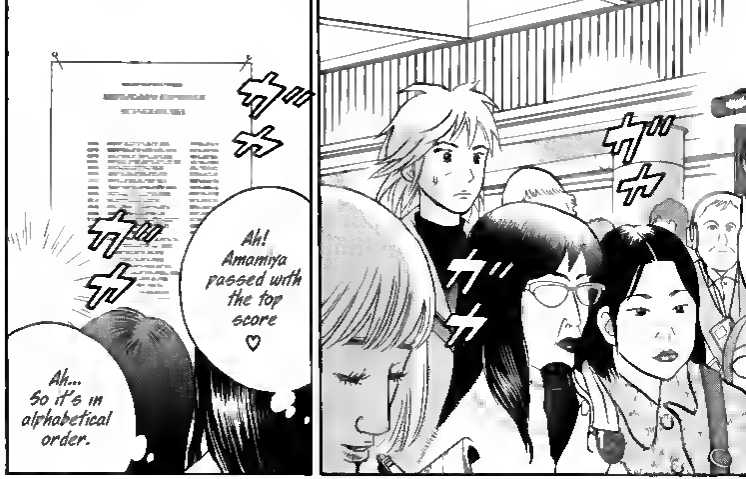
feel so light...
My legs
Ah!
It's just like having a heavy burden unloaded of me...
My back feels so light...

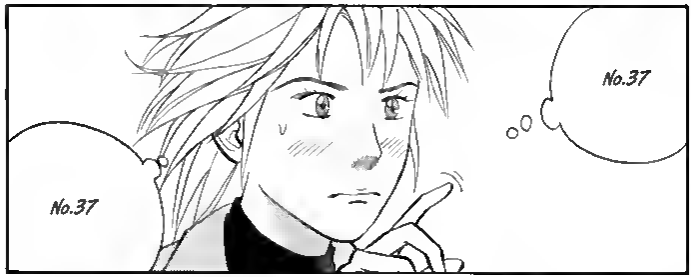
The crowd...
no longer terrifies me.

I...
I don't feel like panicking.

Adamski...
I'm gradually changing.
Perhaps...

A mail... from Dad.
Father 01:07
I'll go ahead first to the hotel bar to talk with the media. Come and join us later.
I can loosen up for a bit.
It looks like...
Buzz...





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No.37 Kai ICHINOSE Japonia/Japan

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There's my name!!

There it is!

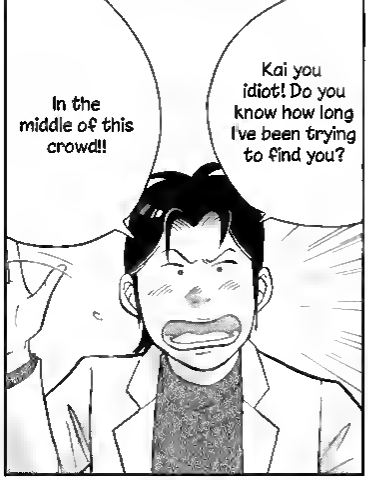
I made it through the first round!!

I made it!!

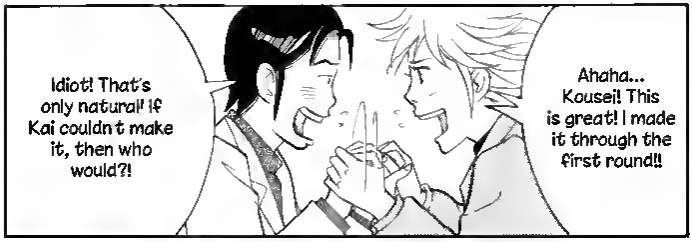
Aaah!!!

Kai!!

Yes! I can move onto the 2nd round!!


In the middle of this crowd!!
Kai you idiot! Do you know how long I've been trying to find you?

Kousei!!


Idiot! That's only natural! If Kai couldn't make it, then who would?!
Ahaha... Kousei! This is great! I made it through the first round!!

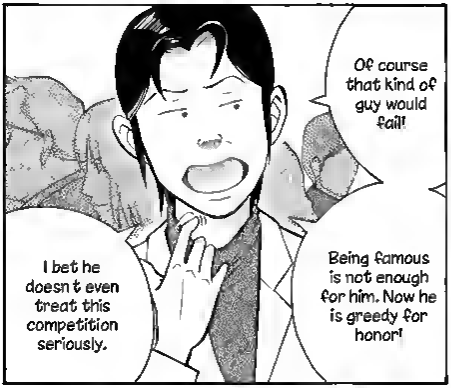
It's true. You can't find his name anywhere!
You're right. Unbelievable.

キャ

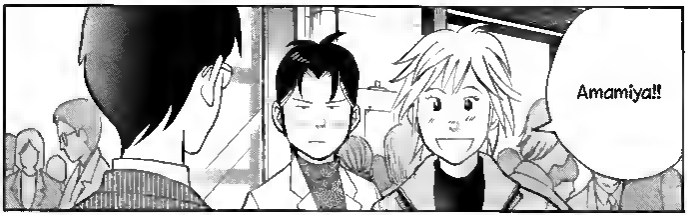
What's that fuss about?

His fans are freaking out because he's the star of Poland!

Karol Adamski got eliminated.



A...



What gives you the right to say that about him?!

What do you know about Adamski?

Kousei wasn't very nice just now... But I'm sure he didn't mean anything bad. It's just something he blurted without thinking...

Umm... Amamiya...

I am ashamed that someone like you is also Japanese.

Why are you still hanging out with this vulgar guy?

Kai,

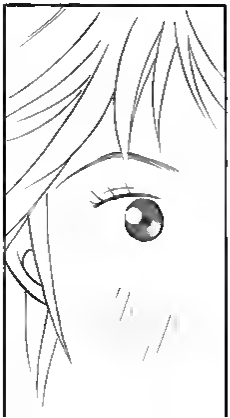
Choose your friends more carefully.

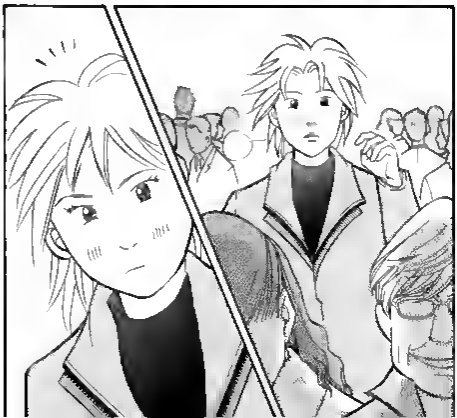
do with someone better than that.

You can definitely...

Amamiya!!
A...

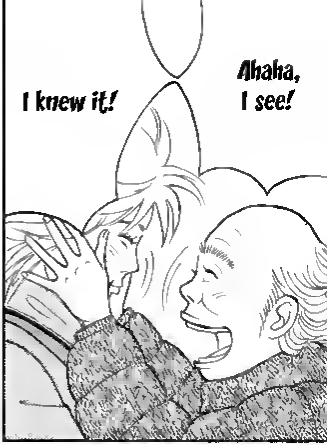
Amamiya!!

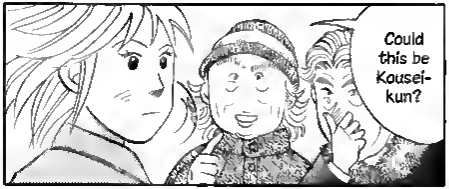




Ah!
Kai!
Jean!!
I made it!!
I made it through the first round!!
Jan!!

See, Jan... There's nothing for us to worry about, right?
Thank goodness, really thank goodness!!


I knew it!
Ahaha, I see!


Could this be Kousei-kun?

Such a good friend you have there.
He must be crying tears of joy.
Ahaha.
Yeah!
But I think he's crying because of something else though...

Ah! I forgot about him!
He's crying!

That's where I'll settle it once and for all with Kai.
Next is the second round!

Adamski... If that's true, then I...

"You get it?"
"The one who brings the piano to life is you!"

I definitely...

won't lose to anyone!

Ah! Over here!

We'll leave after dealing with them for another 30 minutes!
ガヤ ガヤ
It's already really late. Let's find an appropriate time to excuse ourselves.

パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ パチ
Oh, they're here! The hero himself has arrived!!
Shuhei-kun! Congratulations on passing the first round!!

Ah...
It's hot.
Oh no no, it's only been the first round, so please save your praises till later!
Ahaha
Seriously, Shuhei-kun may really be better than you ever were, Amamiya-sensei.

My body...
heavy...
It's hard... to breathe.

Father! I...

My bad, Kristina!
I was the one who called you, but I've kept you waiting!
Youichirou, over here!

It's been 3 years since that performance in France.
Im also glad to see that you're well.
Here's your champagne.

It's been a long time, Youichirou!
We'd only talked over the phone, it's good to see you're doing well.

Ahaha, I ordered this before you came.
Anyway, let's have a toast!

Thank you.

To Junior, for passing the first round!

We can't just meet whomever we want... Especially when they're involved in the competition.

Well, a judge does have a lot of restrictions during the competition...

Relax, we're just old friends meeting up!

Don't mind that sort of thing!

It's probably a bit late to ask this... But is it really okay for me to meet up with you? You're a judge, after all.

I often came to this restourant back when I was a piano lecturer here.

Also, this restaurant opens till really late...

But none of our acquaintances will come here so don't worry!

Eh? Anemic...

So is he alright?

I had to take him back to the apartment before coming here.

I was only late because my son was feeling a bit anemic...

No it's okay, I found it easily enough!

This place is quite hard to find, so I was worried that you might get lost.

It's not that big of a deal! He's already gotten used to it since he was a kid...

Ahhaha

Being so popular must be hard, huh!

You have to deal with everything with a smile on your face...

He was just a little tired, nothing a bit of sleep can't cure.

The reporters were celebrating and congratulating him at the hotel bar...

His performance in the first round was really good as well!

It must be exciting to have such a remarkable son.

Eh?

Anyway, Kristina...

...What do you think about Ichinose Kai?

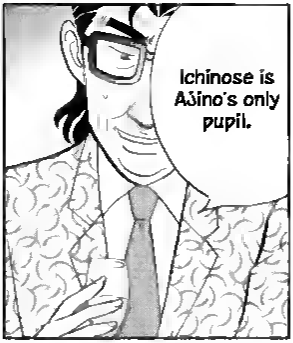
Haha... That'd be nice!

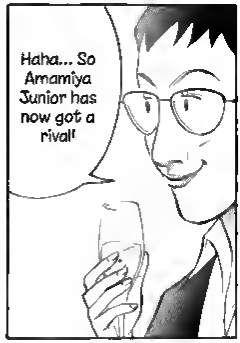
That kid... He'll go big like you when he starts shedding his skin, you know?

He has definitely made quite a fresh impact on everybody. He'll be highly anticipated in the second round as well!

You know... The other Japanese who stood out among all the contestants?

Aah... That's right!





It's so good to hear that he's even raising a pupil!!

Such wonderful news!!

Do you think we can win? Our Shuhei, I mean...

I'm shocked!

Aôino hasn't disappeared then?!

Youichirou, could it be...

You think he can win against Aôino's pupil?

?

Could it be that you're trying to fight a proxy war through your son?

Father's Son END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

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Piano no Mori ch 150

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Artwork from "Piano no Mori"

Chapter 151 Chains

Proxy war...?

Ah...

Of course.

Really?

Not at all! I wouldn't do that to him.

Ahaha...

Of course I used to see myself as Ajino Sousuke's rival...
And there was a time when I worshipped him, despaired at the fact that I could never win against him, and was tortured by my own jealousy.
I guess I feel comfortable venting to you because you're my friend.
Hahaha... Kristina! Sorry to have you put up with my shameless complaints back in those days.
This has nothing to do with whether I'm your friend or your enemy, Youichirou...

It shook you up ferociously and made your blood boil...

But it was always too moving. You just couldn't keep yourself calm.

Even the wrath and sadness lying dormant in your heart would be awakened...

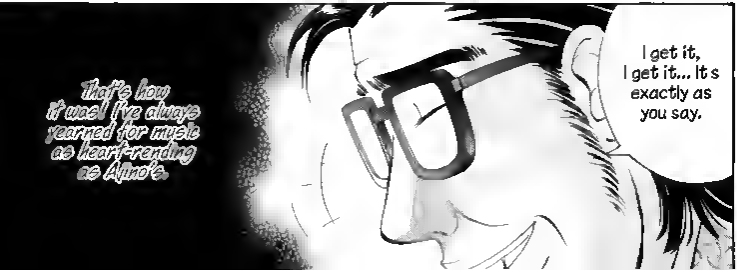
Those in love would become so thrilled they'd go and confess their feelings right away.

I'm not exaggerating.

Depending on the person, it could be heaven or hell... It was a kind of dangerous music.

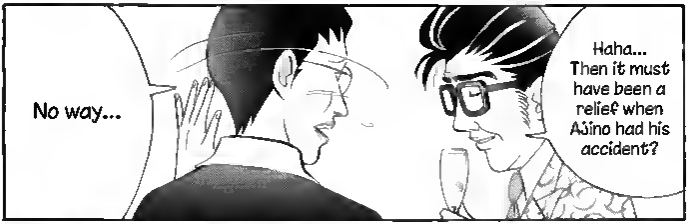
The first time I heard it, I was so excited that I couldn't sleep at all that night.

If I have to say, his performance was almost like a kind of stimulant...



Even the performance venues would be filled with these fangirls squeals. Truth be told, I found them really obscene.

Back then, Ajino's piano was hailed as "Piano of the Soul" by the Japanese media.
He was handsome and cool, so lots of young girls idolized him...


No way...
Haha... Then it must have been a relief when Ajino had his accident?

It's nothing short of a "tragedy".

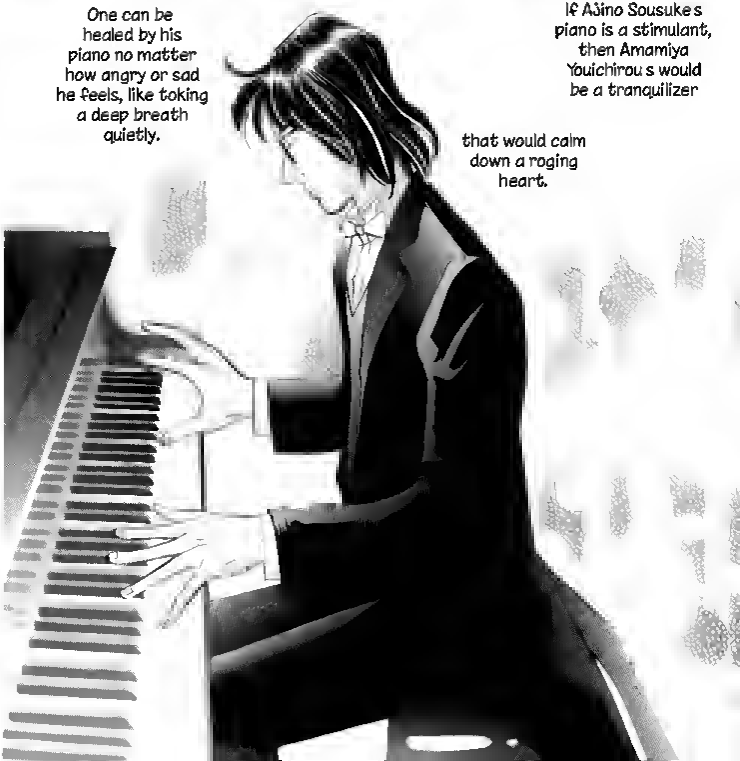
I have always been interested in how his piano could've changed in the future...
His life as a pianist was over just like that. It was a huge blow to me. Such a sad and regrettable thing.

No words would suffice to describe how huge a shock Ajino's accident was to me...

And how did I take it...?

But at the same time, I felt oddly relieved...

I kept telling you back then, but you'd never listen...
The thing I'm trying to say, is that everyone has been too heavily influenced by Aôino's piano, don't you think?
Especially you, Youichirou!


One can be healed by his piano no matter how angry or sad he feels, like taking a deep breath quietly.
If Aôino Sousuke's piano is a stimulant, then Amamiya Youichirou's would be a tranquilizer
that would calm down a raging heart.

It envelopes you completely... A kind of vast and magnonimous music...

It helps you rediscover your true self, ond become the person whom you wont to be.

You're so successful nowadays because you've heoled so many heorts!

They can't be compared to one another in the first place.

Asino's and your piano styles are like fire and water. Basically polar opposites.

But it's alright! There's no need to worry!

Thank you, Kristina!

So, please don't be rattled by Aijino Sousuke and make the same mistake again!

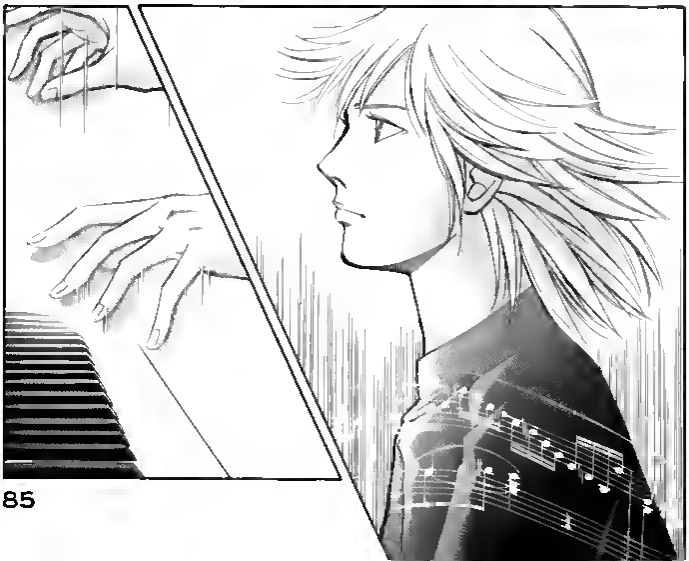
I briefly explained everything that has happened up till now to Kristina.

And Shuhei only met Ichinose by sheer co-incidence.

I've never thought of it as a "proxy war"...

So I want her to understand...

Kristina is one of my few friends that I trust.



AARGHHH

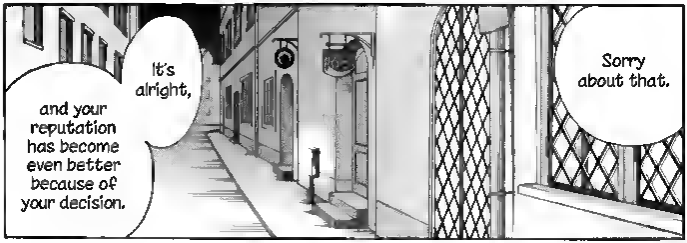
Ah...

Oh right I was dizzy from anemia so Father brought me back and I fell asleep right away.
What time is it?
A... A dream...

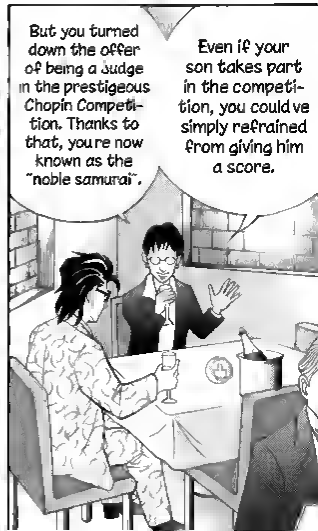
I'm only giving him my understanding and respect.
That's to say, this is all out of Shuhei's own strong desire to vanquish his rival.

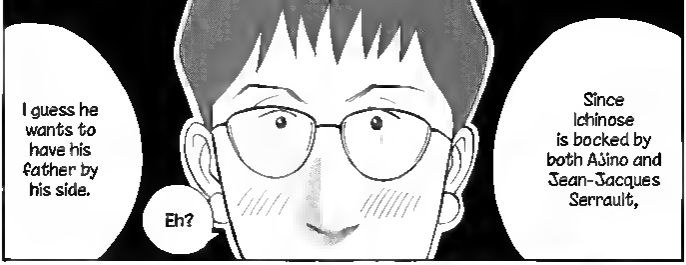
Yeah, I know that.
I was going to recommend you to the panel and give up my own seat, but my hopes were dashed...

That's why I refused the seat on the judging panel offered to me.
It's also his own decision to take part in the competition...


It's alright, and your reputation has become even better because of your decision.
Sorry about that.

I suppose he's a bit timid.
It's actually Shuhei who had me turn it down.
Hahaha, they give me too much credit!

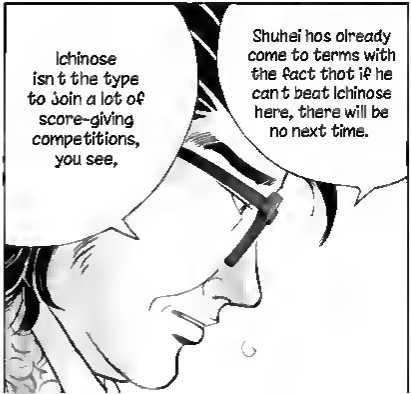

But you turned down the offer of being a judge in the prestigeous Chopin Competition. Thanks to that, you're now known as the "noble samurai".
Even if your son takes part in the competition, you could've simply refrained from giving him a score.


I guess he wants to have his father by his side.
Eh?
Since Ichinose is backed by both Asino and Jean-Jacques Serrault,

That Serrault ...?
Since those are pretty meaningless once they've cleared the preliminary round...
I didn't look at the files...

Jean-Jacques Serrault?
Yeah... Ichinose's recommenders were Asino and Serrault.

So he thinks this is his last chance.


Ichinose isn't the type to join a lot of score-giving competitions, you see,
Shuhei has already come to terms with the fact that if he can't beat Ichinose here, there will be no next time.

He has seen Ichinose Kai as his rival ever since they were kids.

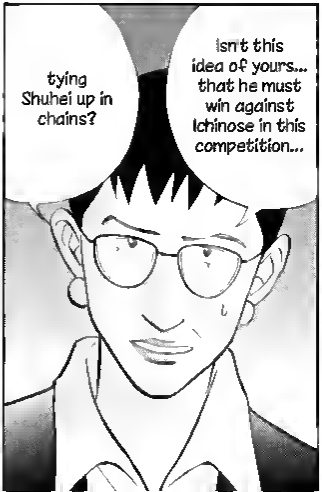
Such strong desire cannot be controlled, even by me, his father.

He wants to beat him no matter what...

?
Is that so...?
Eh?

you will finally be released from the curse of being haunted by Ajino's piano...
Isn't that what you think?
If Shuhei defeats Ichinose in this competition,

Shuhei can sense this, and it's making him restless, don't you think?
At this moment, you believe that Shuhei's piano is no match for Ichinose's...


tying Shuhei up in chains?
Isn't this idea of yours... that he must win against Ichinose in this competition...

Kristina,
That was a bit disrespectful to all the genuine efforts Shuhei has paid up till now.

Kr...

I'm very sorry,
but i understand the anguish of being a second-generation musician better than you do.

Shuhei... loves his father, doesn't he?
He wants acknowledgment coming from you more than from anyone else, right?

but the fact that you don't acknowledge him, right?

It's not the criticisms from the judges or the audience that he fears,

Especially a baseless one...
That's quite a severe conclusion you've jumped to from a mere assumption...

But if you don't free the child soon... You may end up destroying your precious son.
I really hope this is just a baseless assumption...

If Shuhei really wanted to settle things with Ichinose Kai out of his own will,

he wouldn't feel that this competition is his one and only chance.

Let me make this clear.

It doesn't even have to be this kind of scare-giving competitions...

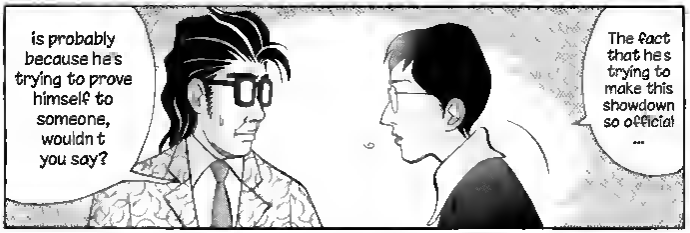
If he can't beat him this time, he can try again next time... Even if he still fails, there'll still be a next time...

or in whatever way they want...

They can compete through concerts...

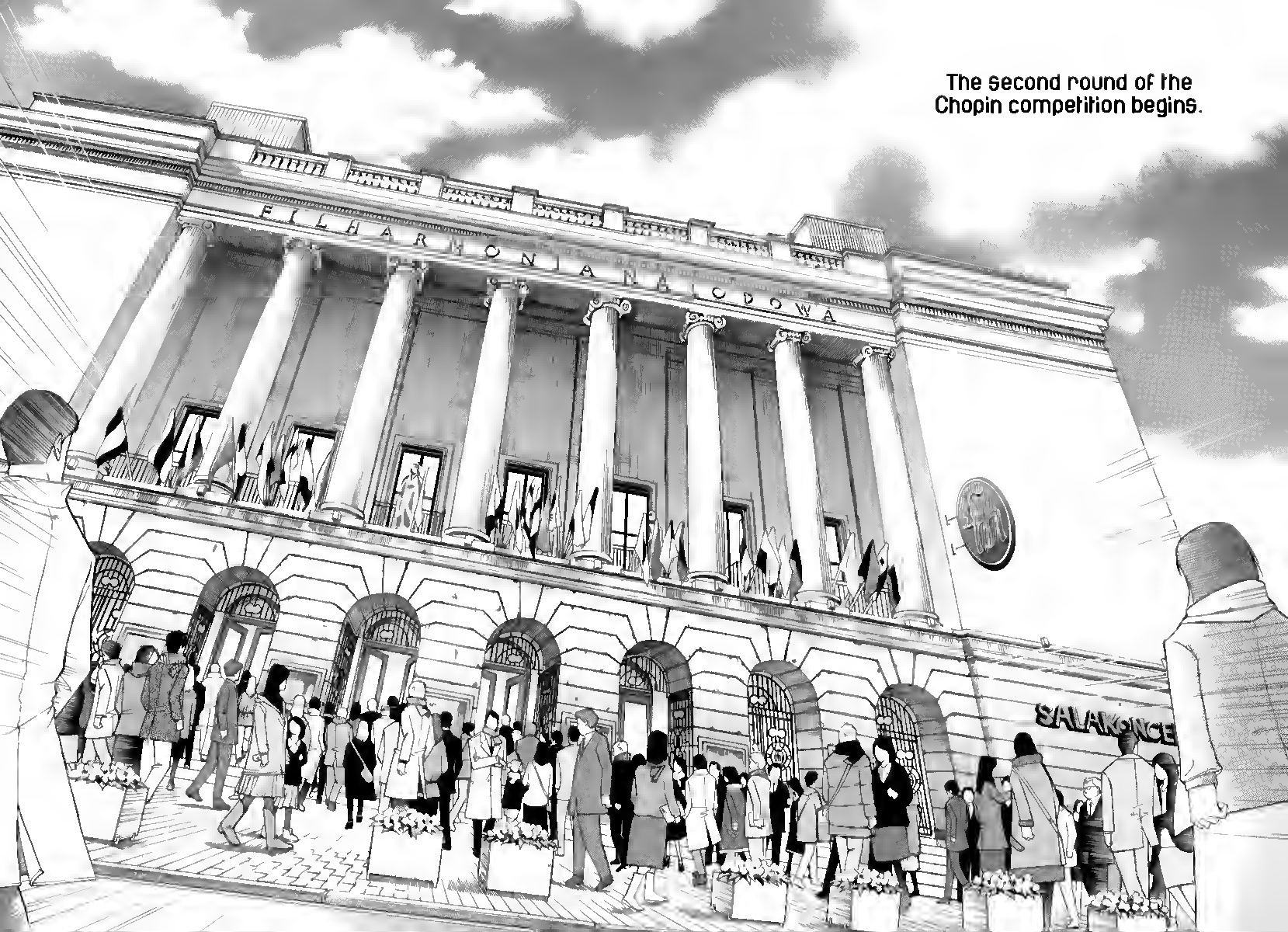
You're supposed to compete with your rival throughout your entire life... and brush up your own skills while doing so.

That's what a rival is for!

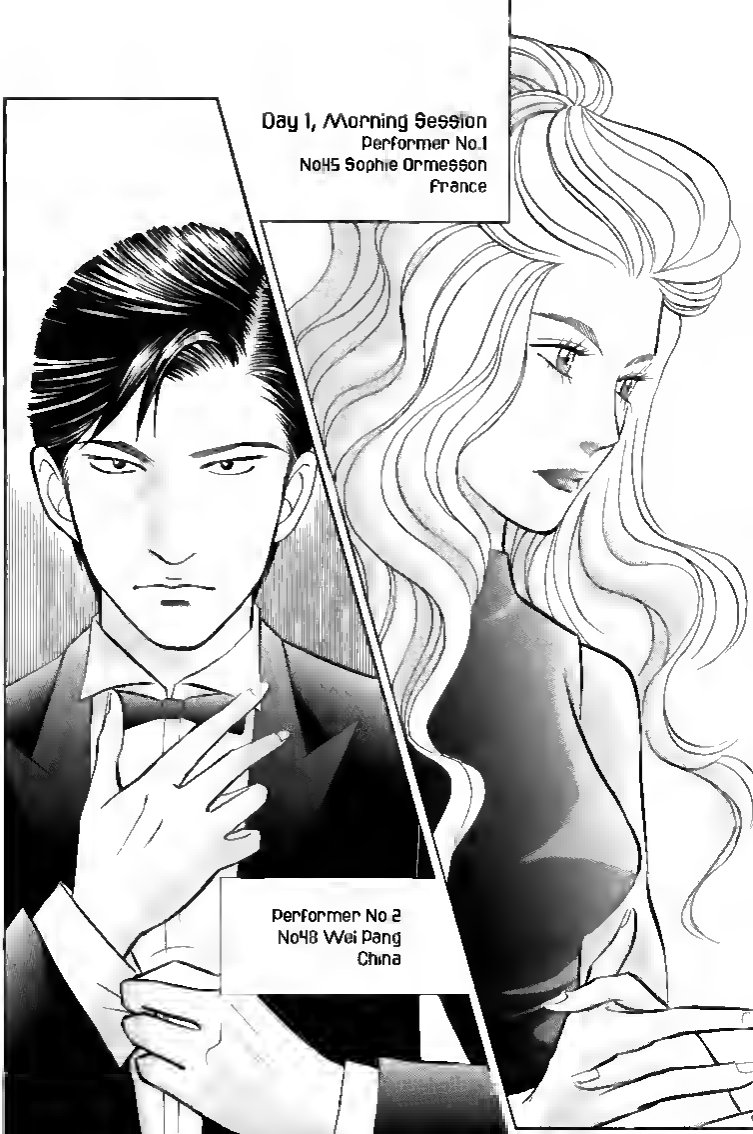


That he can't be sure of himself at all?
Wouldn't he think that he's not loved by you?

definitely win!
I will...



The second round of the Chopin competition begins.


Day 1, Morning Session
Performer No.1
No45 Sophie Ormesson
France
Performer No.2
No48 Wei Pang
China

Chains END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

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Piano no Mori ch 151

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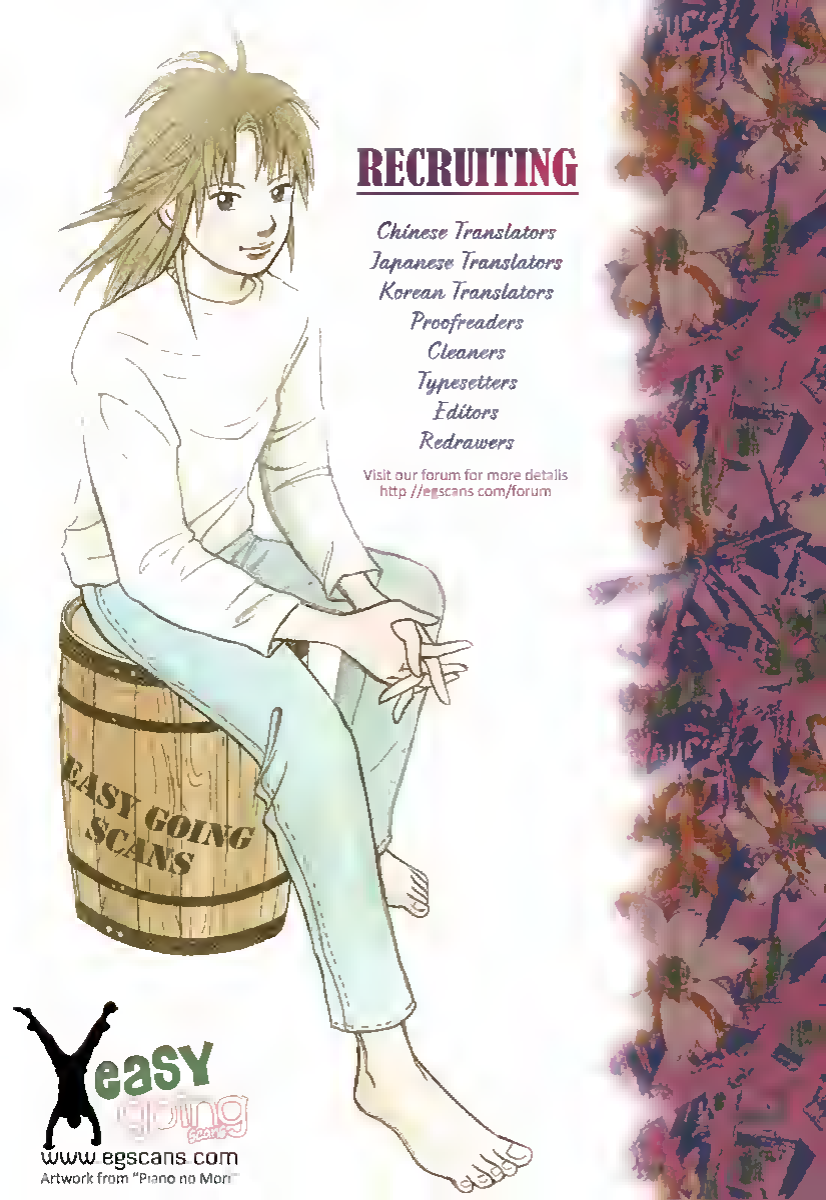
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He really does seem popular.

Since Wei Pang is playing on the first day of the second round, there sure are loads of people standing in the audience, eh?

All this fanfare is going to be swept away by Kai in the final though!

Haha... He'd be very lucky if he could get that far...

.....

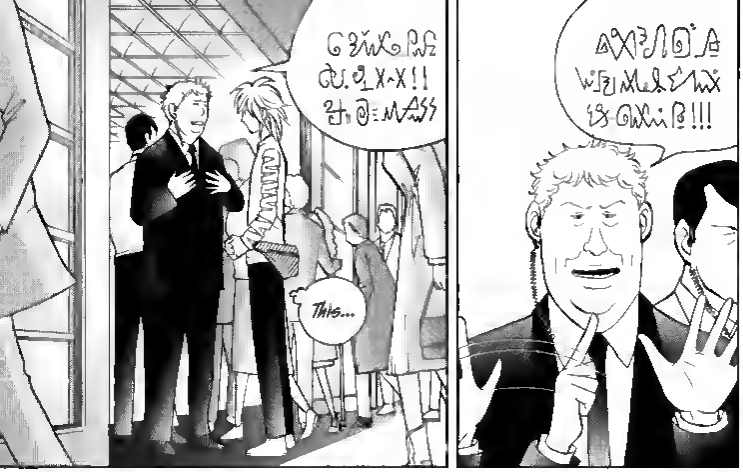
Chapter 152 Before the Battle

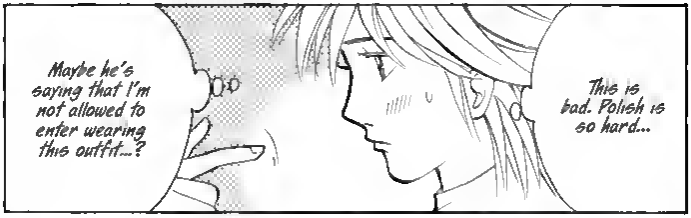
Geez, what's this guy saying?

Eh?

He must be saying that your bag isn't allowed in there. He's telling you to put it in the cloakroom!

Yours is too big.
Unbelievable! Doing that to men is fine, but they have to take women's bags as well...
It was okay the other day, you know! The guy today is just being strict!


This...


Maybe he's saying that I'm not allowed to enter wearing this outfit...?
This is bad. Polish is so hard...

Then I'll go and fetch it back in the cloakroom.
Ah! I was suspecting that...

Amamiya!
He's telling you to put on a jacket!

Forget it! If it's a coat, just leave it back at the cloakroom!

. . . .

. . .

I'll lend you my jacket. Put it on and go in.

[illegible]!!

[illegible]??

Ah... So that's the problem.

It'll be fine. My sleeves aren't full of holes after all...

But then you won't be able to get in, Amamiya...

Since you won't have your jacket...

I'm fine. Let's just go inside.

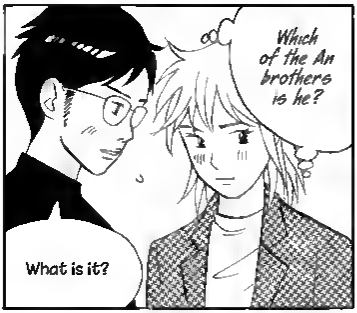
Thank you. I owe you one!

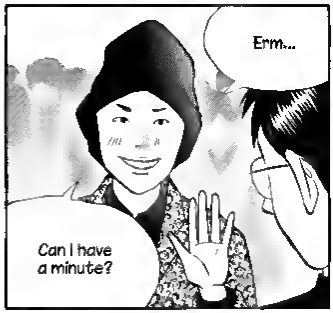
But aren't you cold, Amamiya?

I thought there was only a dress code for the final...

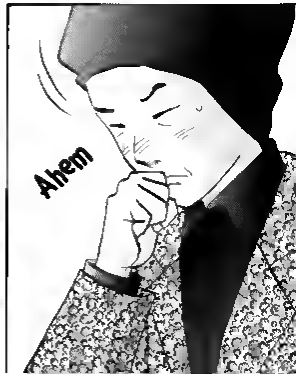
Well... Some may see them as a fashion statement, while others would just think of them as holes.

Amamiya Junior!

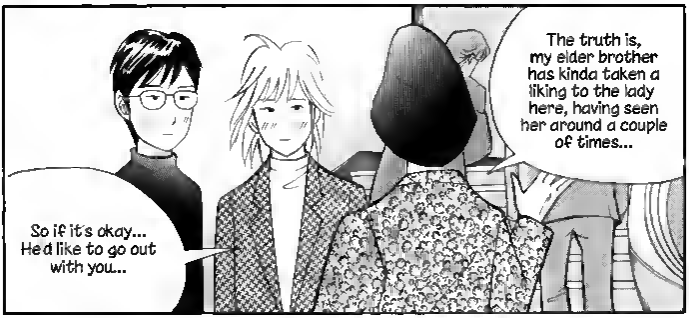

Which of the An brothers is he?
What is it?

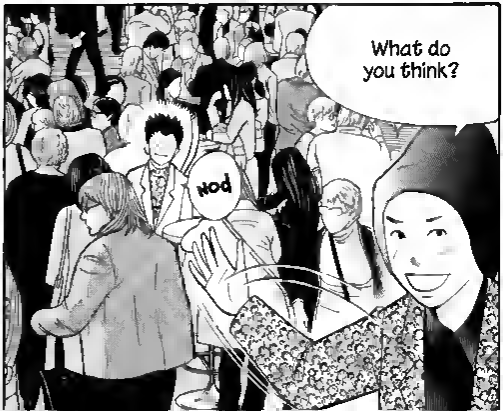

Erm...
Can I have a minute?

Is... Is this person here your girlfriend?


Ahem

Oh, thank goodness. That simplifies things!
Phew
No way!


The truth is, my elder brother has kinda taken a liking to the lady here, having seen her around a couple of times...
So if it's okay... He'd like to go out with you...


What do you think?
Nod

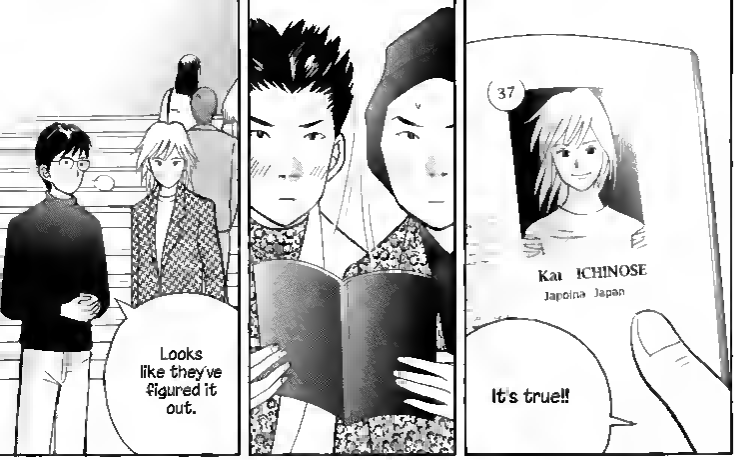
Eh?
Not to mention he's also a participant of the Chopin Competition and a rival of yours...
No.37 · ·

Eh?
Erm... You see, he's a guy though. Is that still alright?

Nah... I was in shock...
You should have told him yourself!

Ex... Excuse me!!

flip flip flip
No.37
flip flip
We didn't check...
No.37



*T/N: KOREAN FOR BIG BROTHER

THE SECOND ROUND WILL NOW COMMENCE WITH THE REMAINING 30 SEMI-FINALISTS PERFORMING OVER A PERIOD OF 4 DAYS

the decision of the Jury, 30 contestants are admitted to the 2nd stage.
ey are arranged in alphabetical order:

om the first round)

ię i nazwisko	Numer konkursowy	kraj
Shuhei AMAMIYA	2	Japonia
Chang Soo AN	3	Korea Płd
Chang Woo AN	4	Korea Płd
Marek BALAZS	9	Polska
Joseph CHAN	15	Kanada
Aleksey CHERNOV	16	Rosja
Luis DAHL	19	Stany Zjednoczone
Evgenii DMITRIEV	22	Rosja
Monika DUKACZEWSKA	25	Polska
10 Jan GARDOCKI	31	Polska
11 Allegra GRANADOS	35	Argentyna
12 Daniel HUNT	36	Stany Zjednoczone
13 Kai ICHINOSE	37	Japonia
14 Satoru MUKAI	44	Japonia
15 Sophie ORMESSON	45	Francja
16 Wei PANG	48	Chiny
17 Yeong-A PARK	49	Korea Płd
18 Yukie SASAKI	52	Japonia
19 Lech SZYMANOWSKI	54	Polska
20 Jacob TABORI	56	Stany Zjednoczone
21 Sayaka TADA	57	Japonia
22 Aubrey THEISS	62	Niemcy
23. Pawel WAGNER	65	Polska
24 Tobias WOLFF	70	Austria
25 Chien-Ying WU	72	Tajwan
26 Rachel WU	73	Stany Zjednoczone
27 Minori YOSHIZAWA	77	Niemcy
28 Olesha YUSHCHENKO	78	Ukraina
29 Koichi YUZAWA	79	Japonia
30 Kristof ZEISSLER	80	[illegible]

Auditions of the 2nd Stage

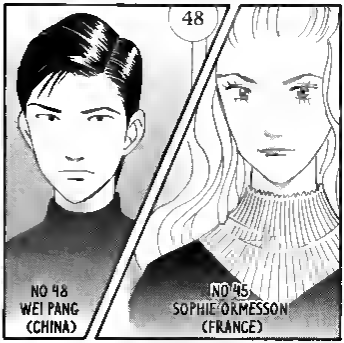
zed południem / a m

	godzina/time	nr konk. /no	Pan/Pani Mr/Ms	nazwisko/surnam
1	10 00 - 10 50	45	Ms	Ormesson
2	10 50 - 11 40	48	Mr	Pang
	11 40 - 12 10			PRZERWA INTERMISSION
3	12 10 - 13 00	49	Ms	Park
4	- 13 50	52	Ms	

południu / p m

	00 - 17 50	56	M

The highlight of the morning session is without a doubt Wei Pang, huh...

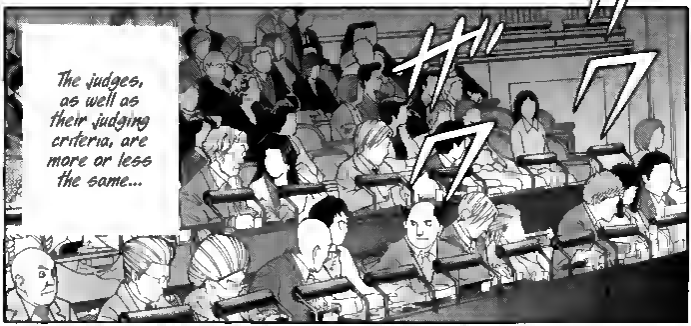


The pieces must include sonatas, polonaises and mazurkas...

All of which must be completed within the time limit of 40-45 minutes.

As in the first round, the morning session starts from 10:00, with 4 contestants playing...

Then as scheduled, 5 more will play in the afternoon session, which starts at 17:00...



Hee hee...

How did you get that one?

Nabbed it from Ajino.

Thank you for the jacket. You saved my neck.

But it would be bad if he gets sick too...

Sensei said that ...?

Ajino was like, "It'd be terrible if Amamiya catches a cold..."

Kidding! Kidding!

He doesn't have to play the piano tomorrow...

Ehh... Don't worry!

He's not a contestant after all...

You should worry about yourself first before worrying about others.

Don't get cold feet.

Sonata... We'll be playing the same one, won't we?

After all, you've already got a record on that.

I get to listen to Amamiya's sonata tomorrow.

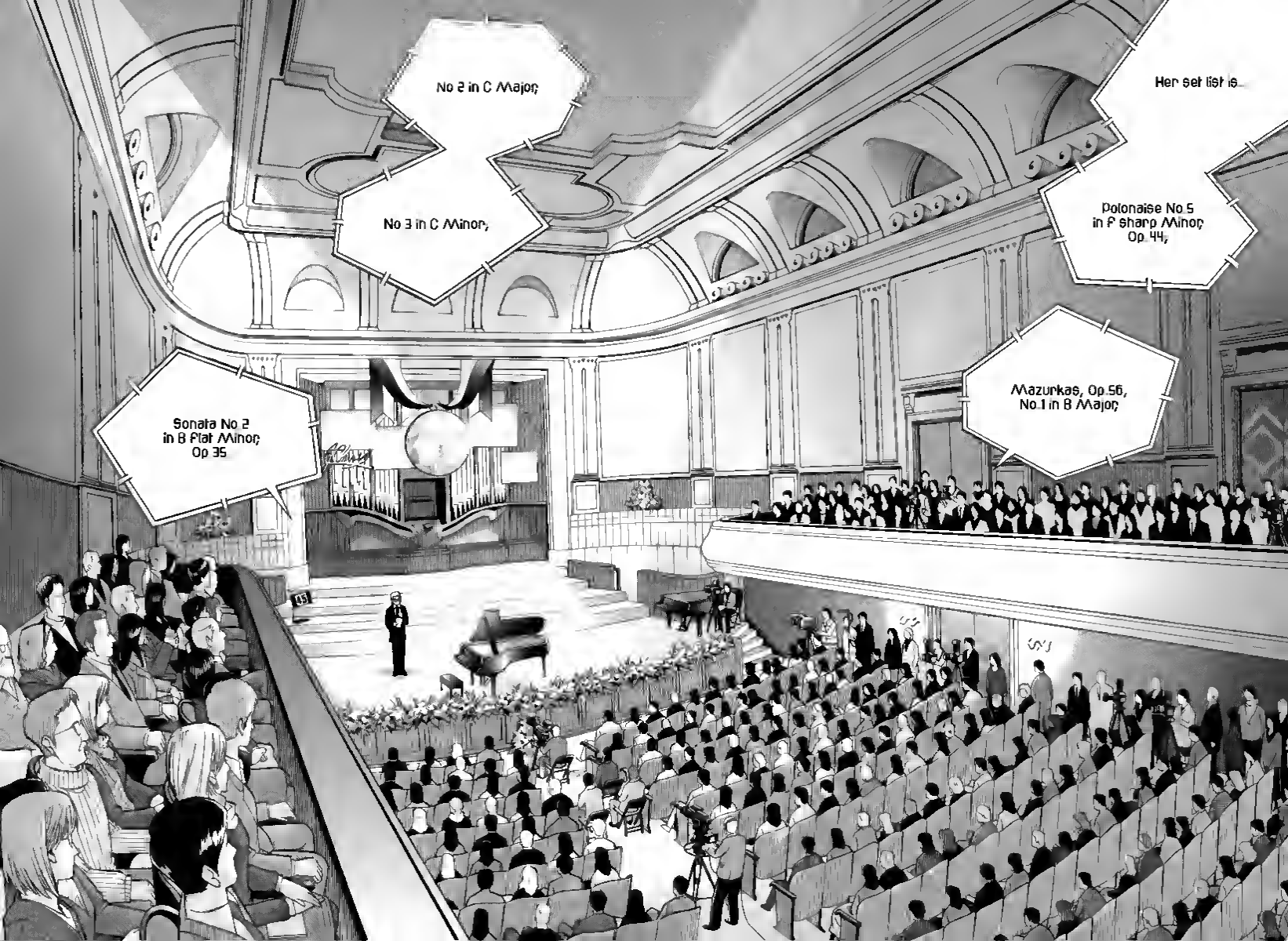
Hey, Amamiya...

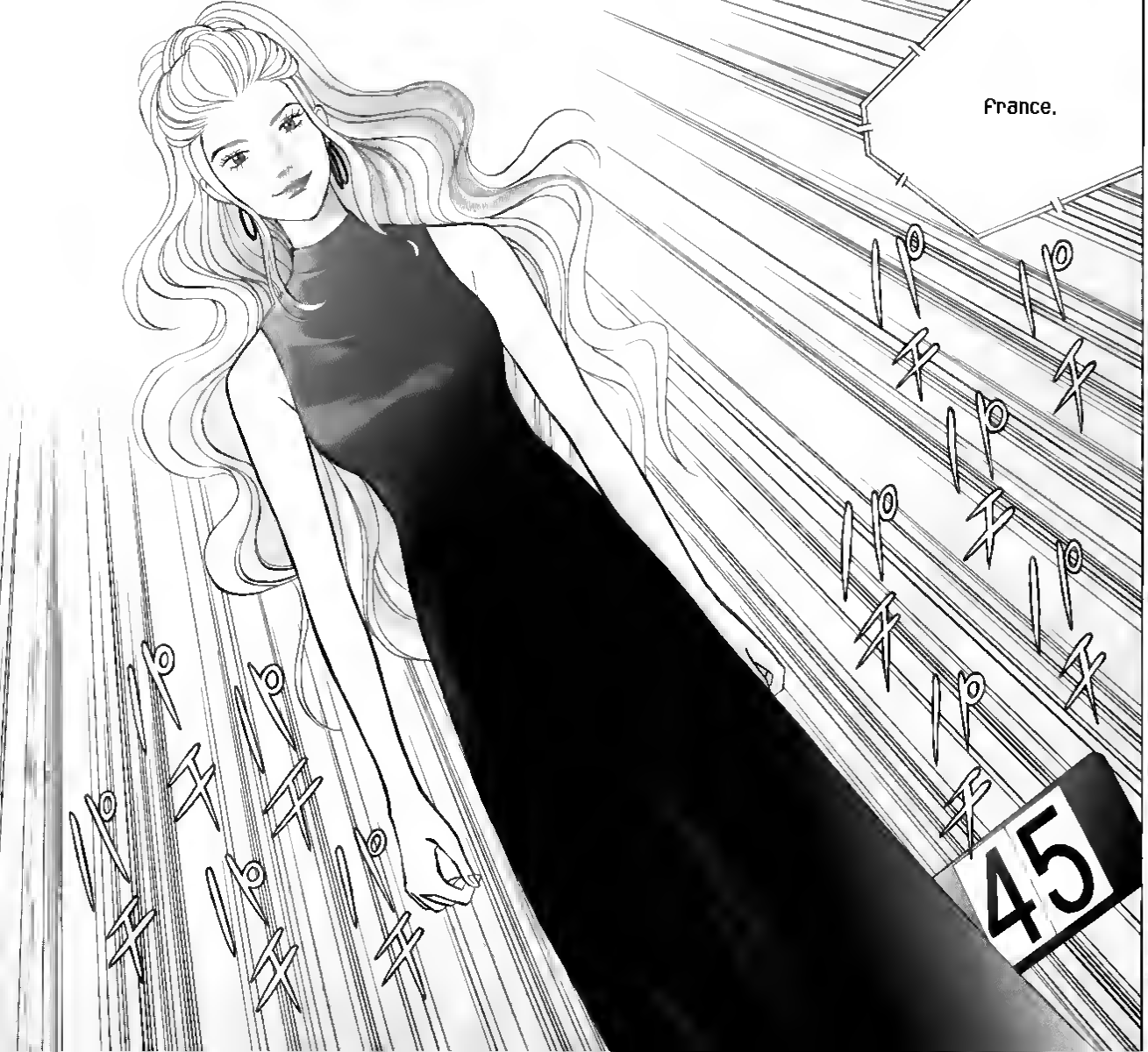
Haha...

Hmm?

It's good...

パパパパパパパパパパパパパパパパパパ
The second round will now commence.
For our morning session, the first contestant is No45, Sophie Ormesson, France...
It's really wonderful.
That the two of us get to be here.


No 2 in C Major,
Her set list is...
No 3 in C Minor,
Polonaise No.5 in F sharp Minor, Op.44,
Mazurkas, Op.56, No.1 in B Major,
Sonata No.2 in B Flat Minor, Op.35


France.
45

Her piano of choice is Yamaha
No.45, Sophie Ormesson,

Our second round has finally begun.
Before the Battle END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Piano no Mori ch 152

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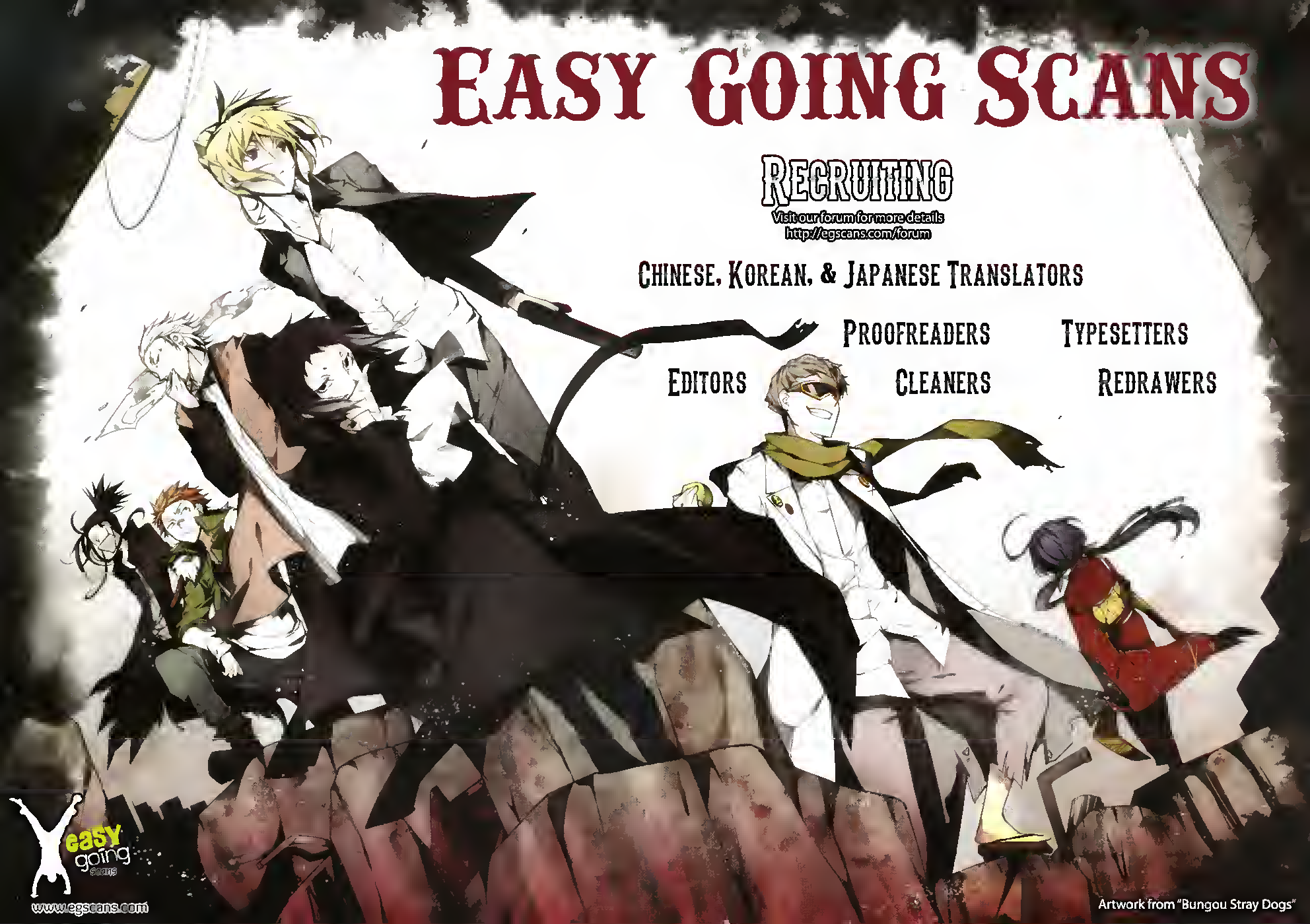
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Artwork from "Bungou Stray Dogs"

Chapter 153 An Extravagant Performance

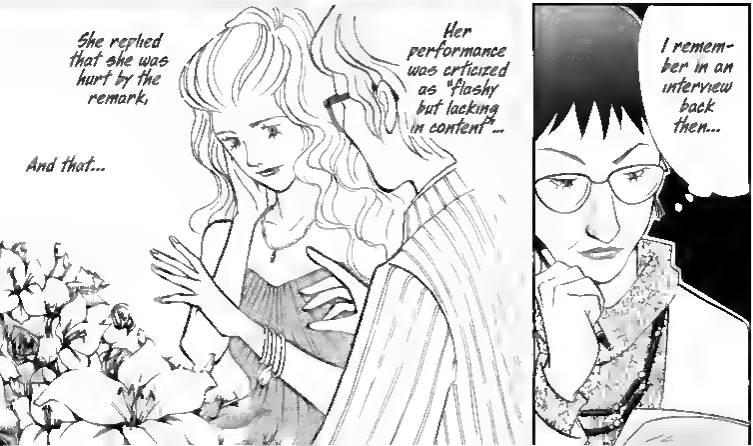
Polonaise No.5

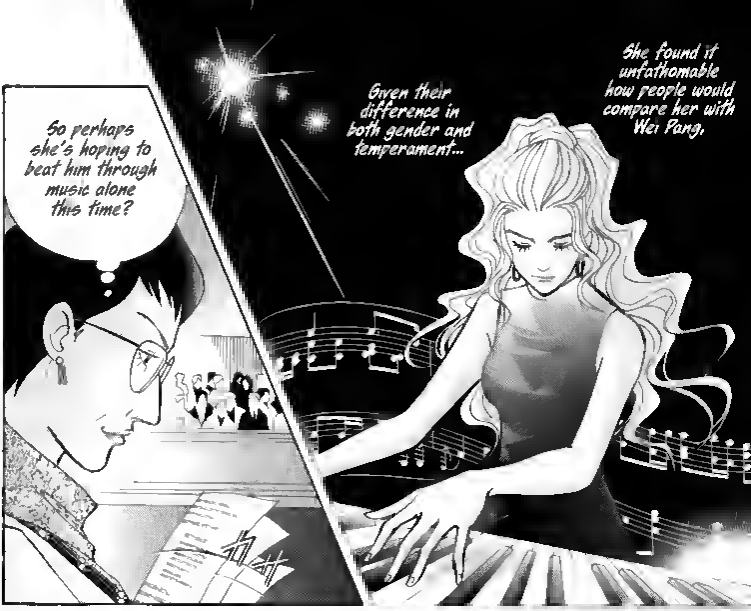
Sophie Ormesson's first piece...

POLONAISE NO.5 IN F SHARP MINOR, OP.44

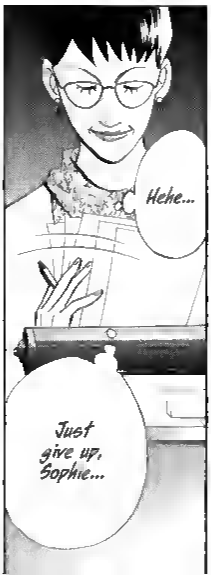
So beautiful...

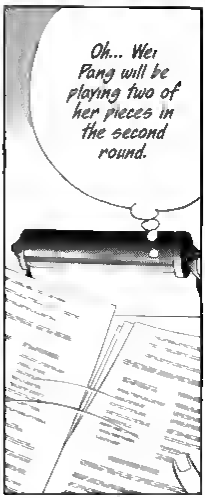
That's right. She came third in the last Long-Thibaud. The one that Wei Pang won...
It's flawless. Splendid!


She replied that she was hurt by the remark.
Her performance was criticized as "flashy but lacking in content"...
And that...
I remember in an interview back then...


So perhaps she's hoping to beat him through music alone this time?
Given their difference in both gender and temperament...
She found it unfathomable how people would compare her with Wei Pang.

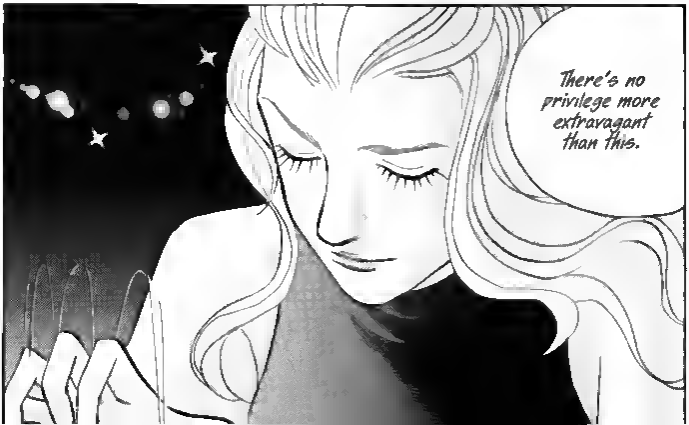
And Wei Pang is playing right after you!
This is a competition...

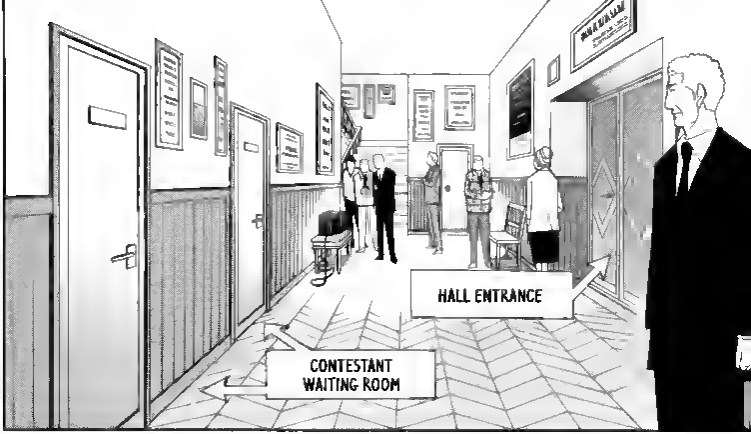

Hehe...
Just give up, Sophie...


Oh... Wei Pang will be playing two of her pieces in the second round.

No matter how much you hate it,

People will never stop comparing your performance with his...




HALL ENTRANCE
CONTESTANT WAITING ROOM

CONTESTANT WAITING ROOM

....

MAZURKAS OP56
NO 1 IN B MAJOR

She's playing magnificently as always...

Even though Sophie is the first one to play again this time, she does not seem stressed at all.

NO.3 IN C MINOR

YAMAHA

NO.2 IN C MAJOR

The echo of such beautiful sound...

SONATA NO.2 IN B FLAT MINOR, OP.35, "FUNERAL MARCH"

BRAVA

ブラヴァ

Hmm... Looks like This girl is gonna win.

Wow... That was wonderful!!

That's how it should be to go first!

YAMAH

Next up is China's Pang.

Ormesson is here to avenge herself after Long-Thibaud, that's why she's all fired up!

The first day of the second round is already this exhilarating.

So, it's all about "Beating Wei Pang", right?

Encore!

Wei Pang won't be able to live up to it!!

Sophie!! You'll definitely win this time!!

ギッ

45

YAMAHA

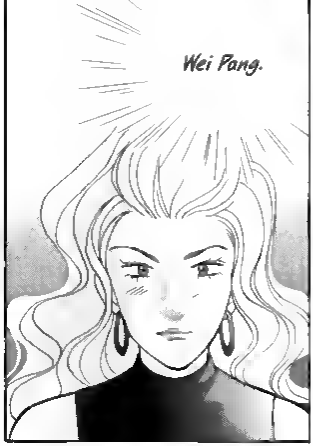
What kind of idiot was that?! Trying to catch Sophie's attention!

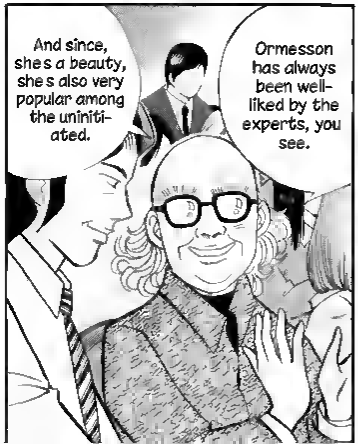
But even so...

Better be careful with what I say during the interview...

Geez, I didn't even think about Pang...

45

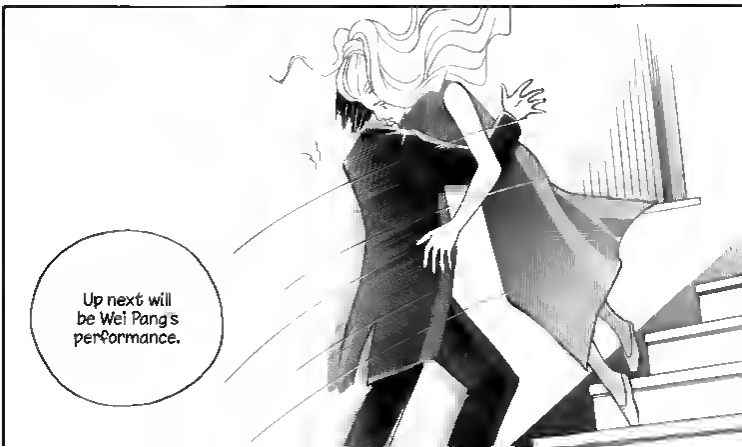

Wei Pang.


And since, she s a beauty, she s also very popular among the uninitiated.
Ormesson has always been well-liked by the experts, you see.

パチ パチ
That was surprising.
I didn t expect the standard to be so high...

TL/N POLAND'S UNIT OF CURRENCY, 1 ZŁOTY = ABOUT 30 YEN = ABOUT 0.3 USD

Eh?!


Up next will be Wei Pang's performance.

Hmm.
ゴロゴロ
It's like a copy of Ajino's piano...

Kai, have you heard anything from him?
I wonder what will the real Ajino-sensei think?

Really?

Eh?
I don't think Ajino has ever heard Wei Pang play before.
This will be his first time.

You're sure you don't want to be with him?

Yeah, I'm fine here.

Quite so...

Then it's going to be quite a shock!

Even if that was what he originally intended, there's now an annoying person sitting next to him.

No, that's not it.

Ha ha...

So you want to let him enjoy the performance in peace, huh.

Jean is always so relaxed around Ajino.

This is a special skill of Jean's that no on can emulate.

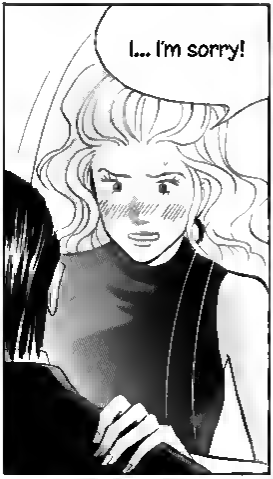
He can find a way to bring up anything casually, even matters that are delicate for Ajino.

Ha ha, indeed.

...Or pretend to be unperturbed, at the very least.

That's why Ajino can be so unperturbed.

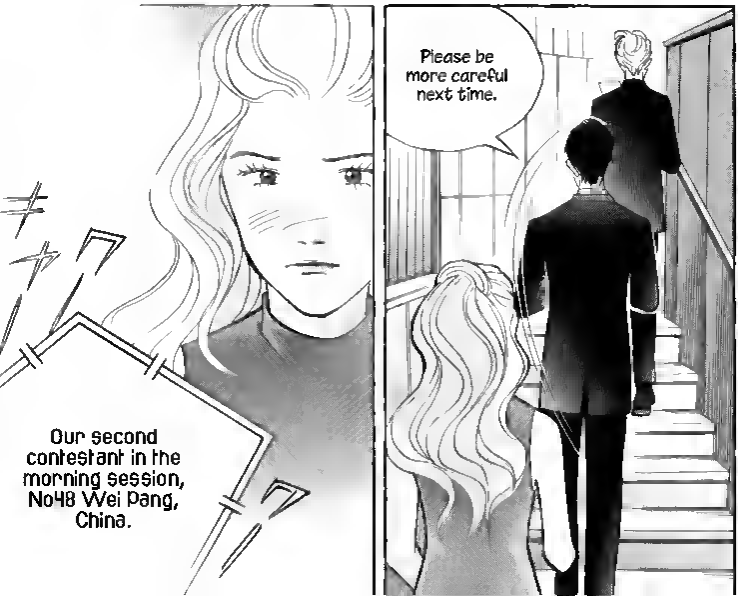
Wei Pang s a bit late, isn't he?


I... I'm sorry!

Hey,
are you two
alright?

Your
hand...
Is your
hand alright?!

I'm really sorry!
Thank goodness! You're sure everything's alright?
No problem.
I'm absolutely fine.
So could you please let go of me already?


Please be more careful next time.
Our second contestant in the morning session, No48 Wei Pang, China.

His set list is...

Polonaise No 5 in F sharp Minor, Op 44,

Mazurkas, Op 33,

No.1 in G Sharp Minor,

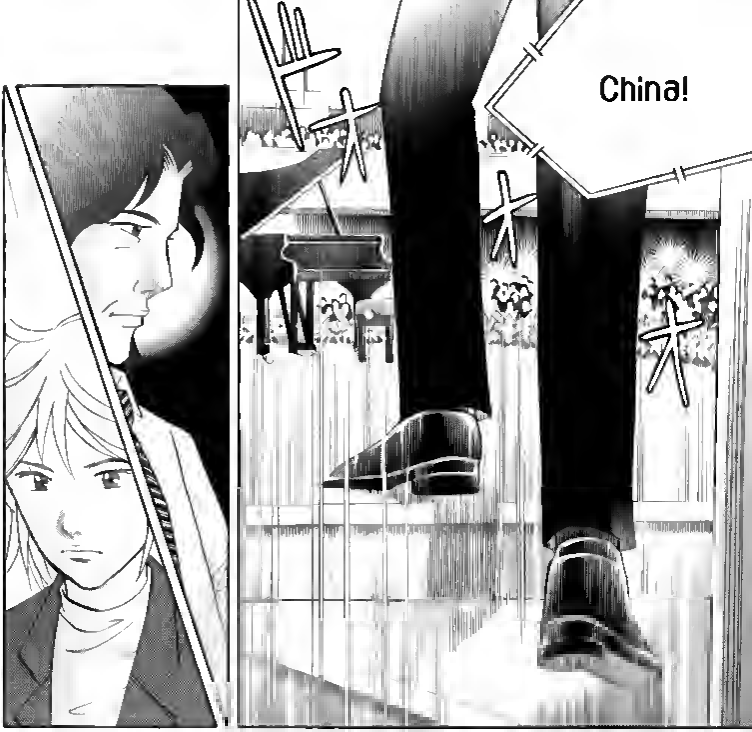
No 4 in B Minor,

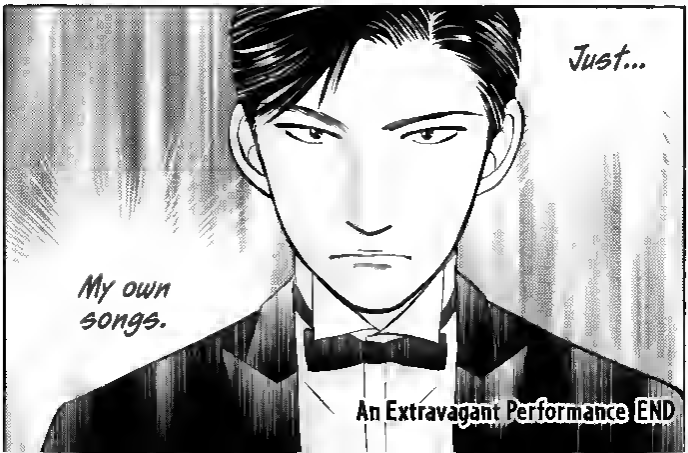
No 2 in D Major,

No.3 in C Major,

I was utterly preoccupied with Ajino Sousuke all this time.
Sonata No 2 in B flat Minor, Op 35
But I wonder if that actually helped me a bit.
Damn.
That woman's smell is still on me.

(Wo xǐng guò lái le)
我醒過来了
(Now my head has cleared.)
His piano of choice is Steinway
No.48
Wei Pang,


China!


Just...
My own songs.
An Extravagant Performance END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

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Piano no Mori ch 153

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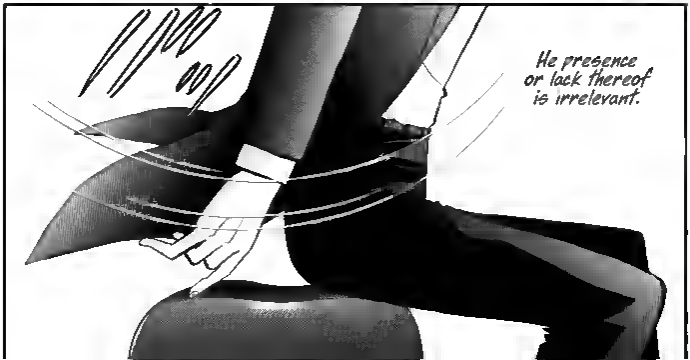
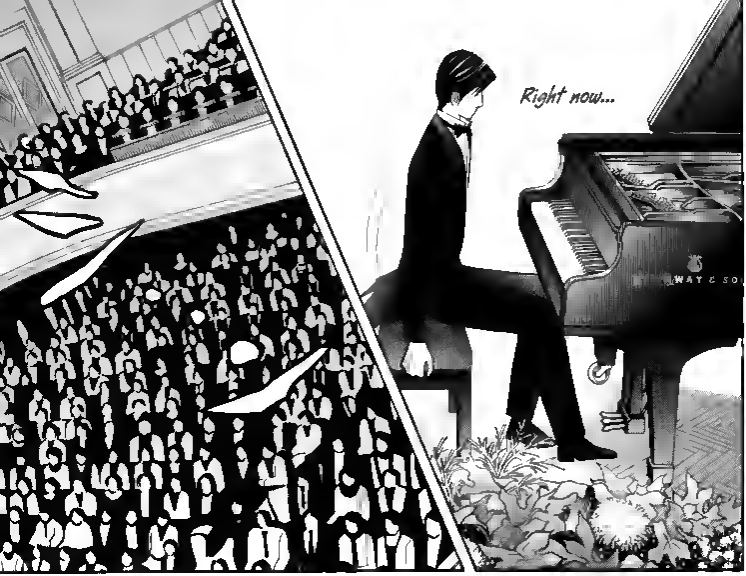
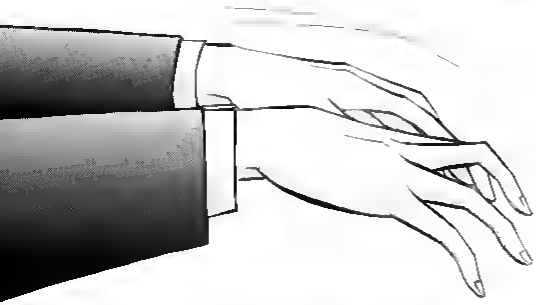
Artwork from the manhua The Kensei's Calligraphy

In the midst of this audience...

No...
Is Ajino here...
In the midst of the audience?

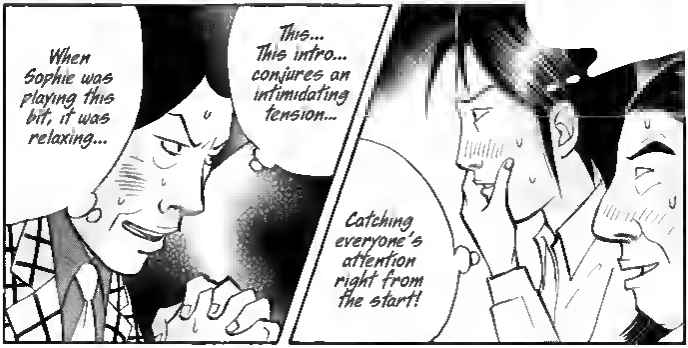

He presence or lack thereof is irrelevant.


Right now...



Chapter 154 "Bomb"

Oh wow, there it is...


When Sophie was playing this bit, it was relaxing...
This... This intro... conjures an intimidating tension...
Catching everyone's attention right from the start!

Now it's a totally different matter.

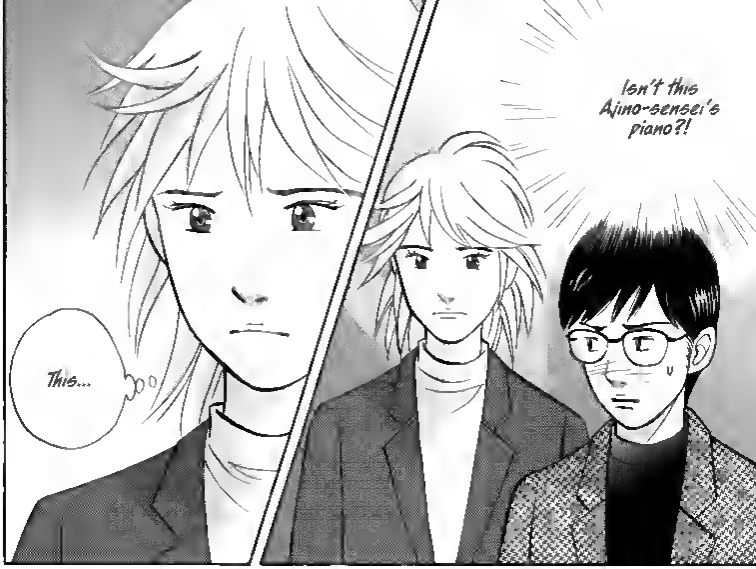
It feels as if everyone in the auditorium had ceased breathing.

Kai, what do you think about this?!

Kai, isn't this...

It feels like he can knock out anyone else who attempts to play the piano...

That's how his piano is.


Isn't this Ajino-sensei's piano?!
This...

This is...

He must have completely immersed himself in Ajino's piano, just as I have...
Moreover, this isn't mimicry out of mere interest.
This is...
Indeed, he must have known Ajino's piano.

Right now... The audience is taking a glimpse at Poland's tragic history...
What's with his piano playing...

But this level of ferocity is...
The theme of this piece is indeed pain and dignity...

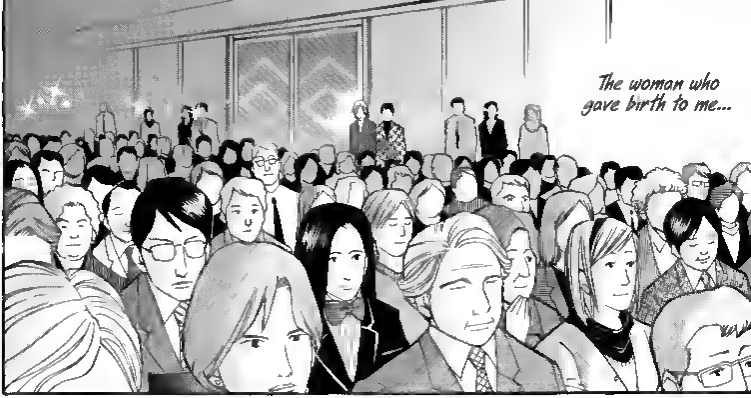
Who cares about Poland's tragedies.

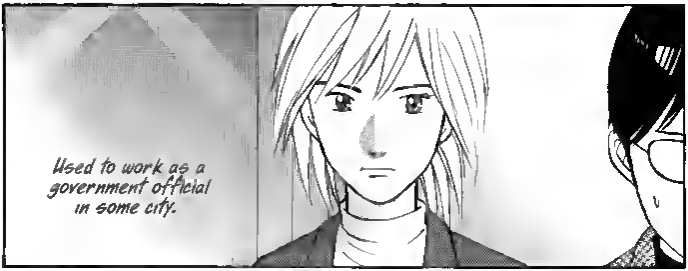
Every country has tragedies of its own.

Even any random person would have experienced tragedies of some sort.

If I were to say a tragedy has befallen me...

It would probably be the fact that... I was born into this world.


The woman who gave birth to me...

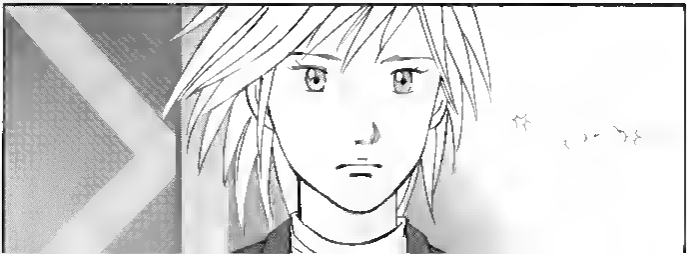

Used to work as a government official in some city.

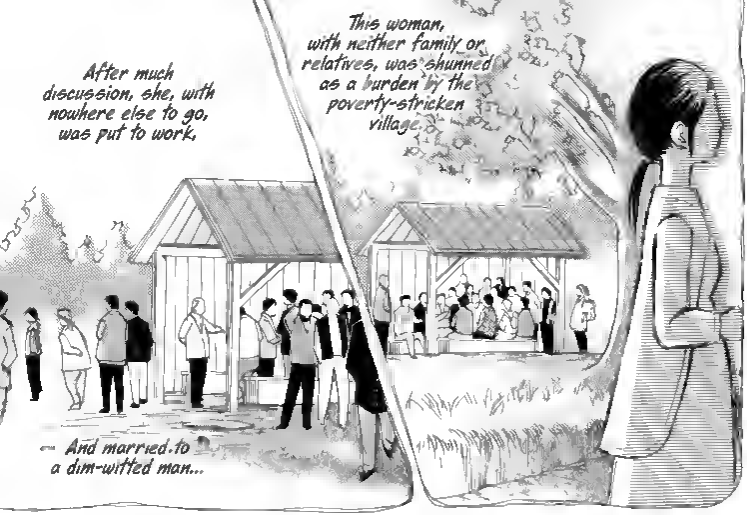
She got pregnant with me, from, god knows, whom.
Fired from her job, she returned to her home village...

She was a beautiful woman, so she was put in charge of receiving Japanese guests.
Rumor had it that she had had a bomb rigged on her by the Japanese, so her return caused an uproar in that tiny village.
Nobody knew the truth...
Since she was already out of her mind by then.
Such...
Such a powerful Polonaise No.5...

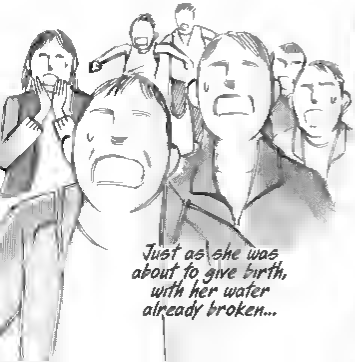
And so, even before I was born...

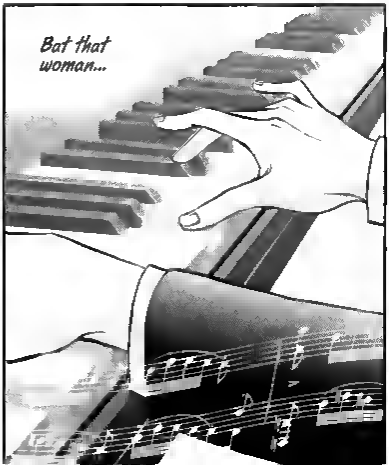
I was known as the "Bomb".

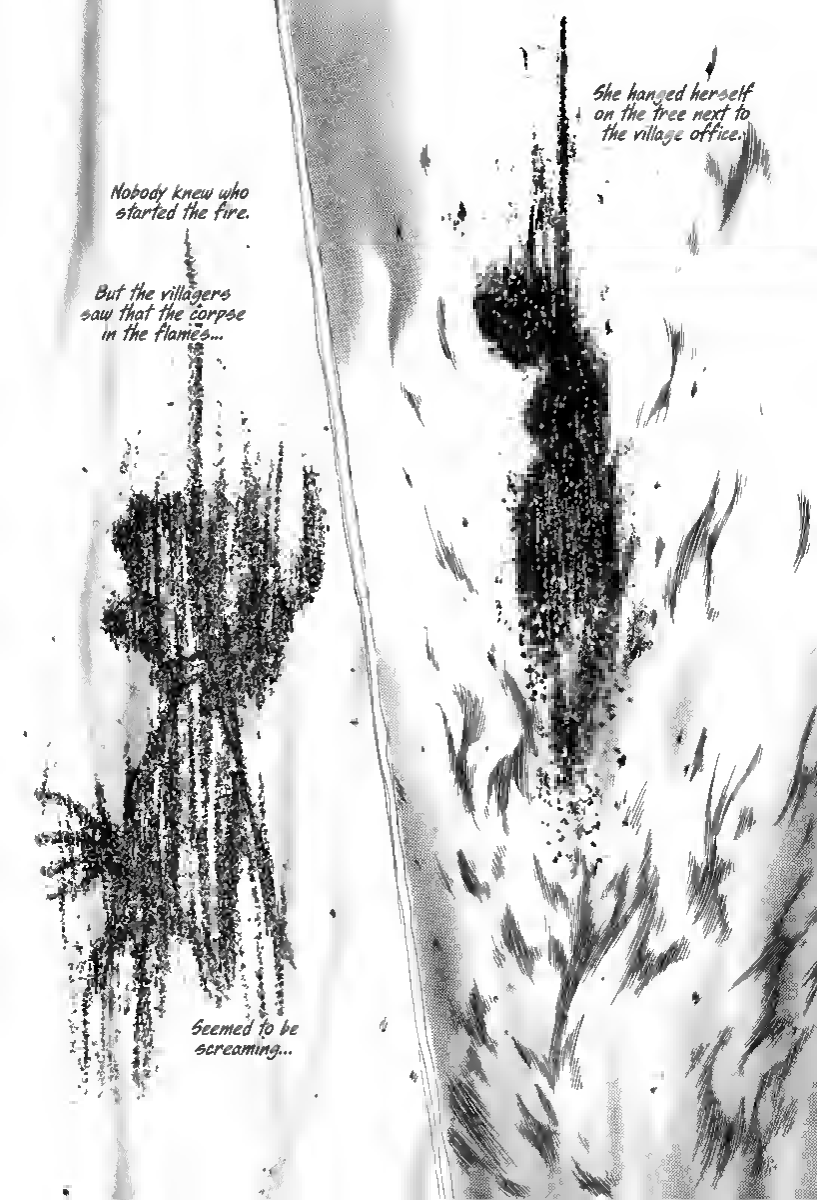



After much discussion, she, with nowhere else to go, was put to work.
This woman, with neither family or relatives, was shunned as a burden by the poverty-stricken village.
And married to a dim-witted man...

Should have become a closed case.
With that, everything...


Just as she was about to give birth, with her water already broken...


But that woman...


She hanged herself on the tree next to the village office...
Nobody knew who started the fire.
But the villagers saw that the corpse in the flames...
Seemed to be screaming...

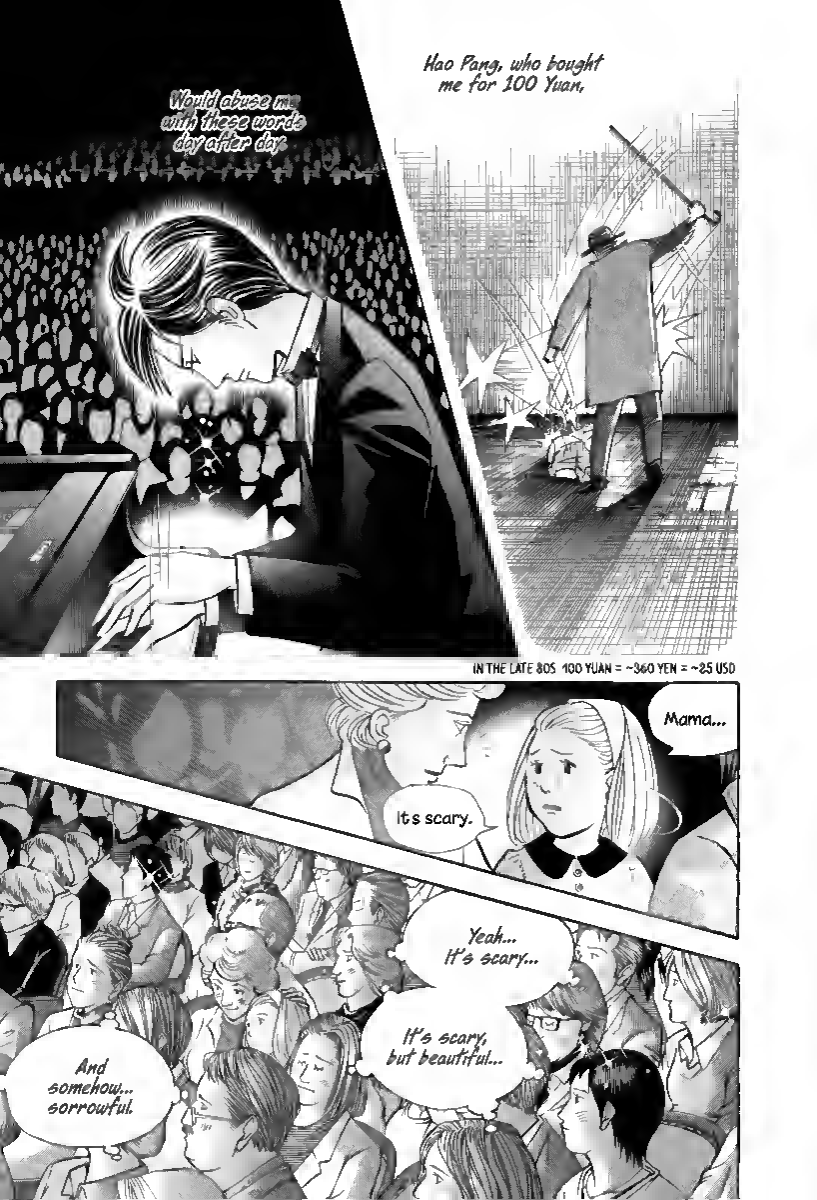
They were terrified, and tried to douse the fire...

And then...

I was born from a burnt corpse.

...was already mad...

That woman had already gone mad.
But she still refused to give birth to you out of pure instinct!!
Even if she had to become the wife of that pathetic man,
She still refused to become your mother.
You're not worthy of being called human!!


Would abuse me with these words day after day.
Hao Pang, who bought me for 100 Yuan,
IN THE LATE 80S 100 YUAN = ~360 YEN = ~25 USD
Mama...
It's scary.
Yeah... It's scary...
It's scary, but beautiful...
And somehow... sorrowful.

However...

Wei Pang's piano really does sound like mine.

This is... not my music.

With so much underlying grief and anger...

"Bomb" END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Piano no Mori ch 154

Credits
Raws: raw1st
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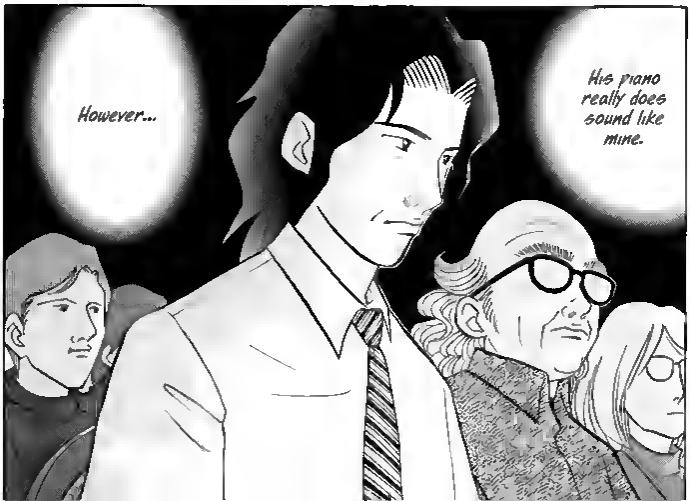
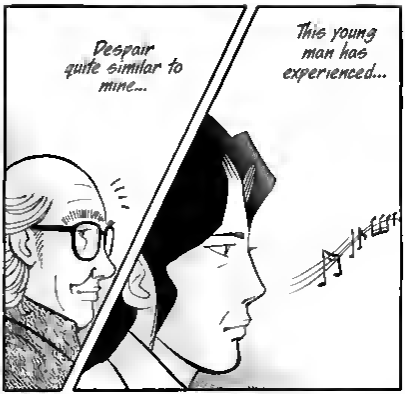
Chapter 155 Heaven and Hell

Wei Pang...



This is... not my music...

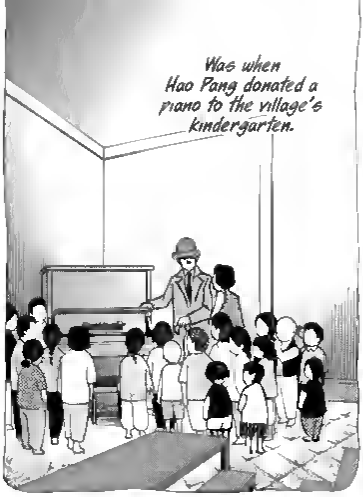
With so much underlying grief and anger...



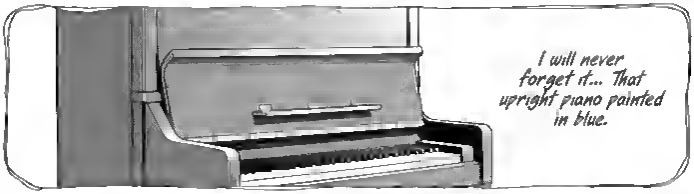
Hao Pang, the man who bought me...
Cursed his own poverty...

He would do anything for money...
He finally became a vicious millionaire, owning several factories.
But no matter how high he has risen, he was not satisfied.

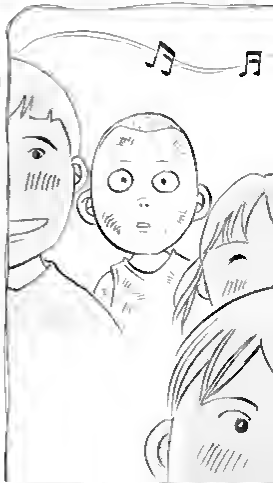
First, he built a school in his home village.
As well as a kindergarten.
謝 謝 你
*T/N 'THANK YOU' IN CHINESE
That man...
Wanted to be respected.


Was when Hao Pang donated a piano to the village's kindergarten.

The first time I've ever heard the sound of a piano...

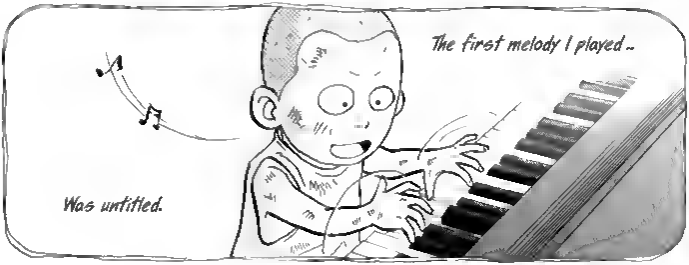

I will never forget it... That upright piano painted in blue.

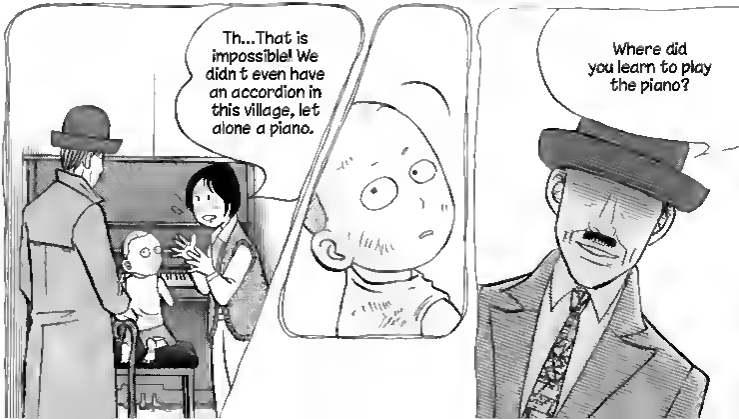
When I, an outsider who had snuck into the kindergarten, heard that timbre for the first time...



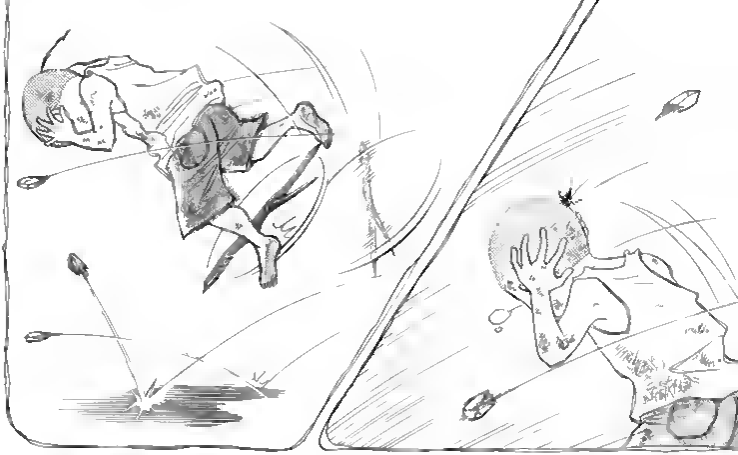
I thought it was the sound of the heavens.
T/N: THANK YOU IN CHINESE
謝謝你

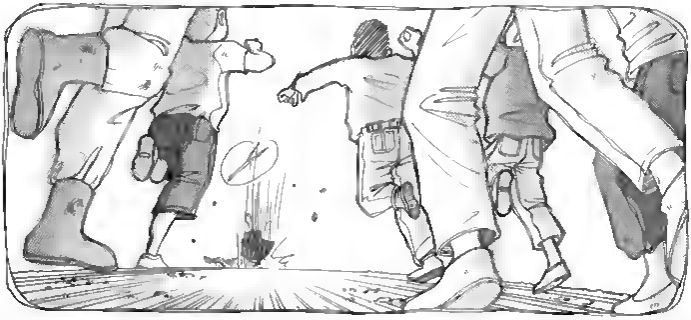
Bomb!
But he isn't a kinder-gartener here.
Who is that boy?

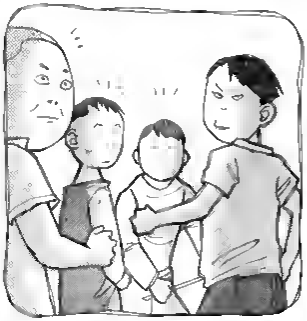

The first melody I played...
Was untitled.


Th...That is impossible! We didn't even have an accordion in this village, let alone a piano.
Where did you learn to play the piano?

.....
And he has only listened to it once...
Besides, the song he played was a melody that I improvised just now.
A few days later...



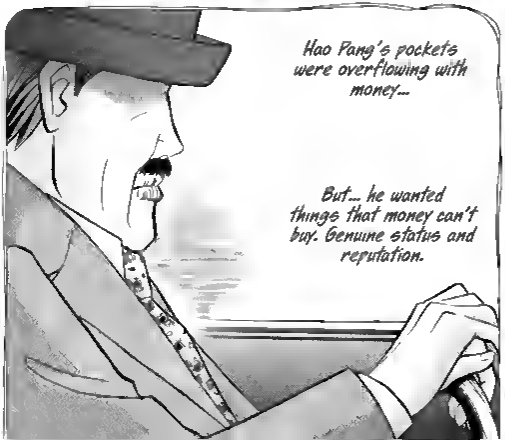


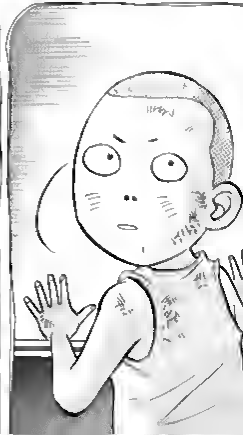


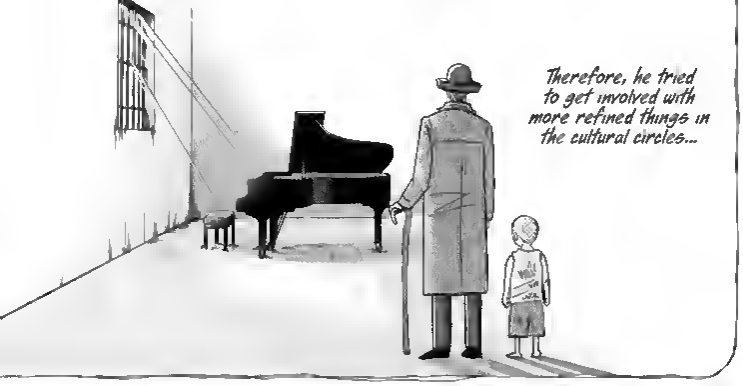
Hao Pang showed up again...

Now then, please take me to your place.

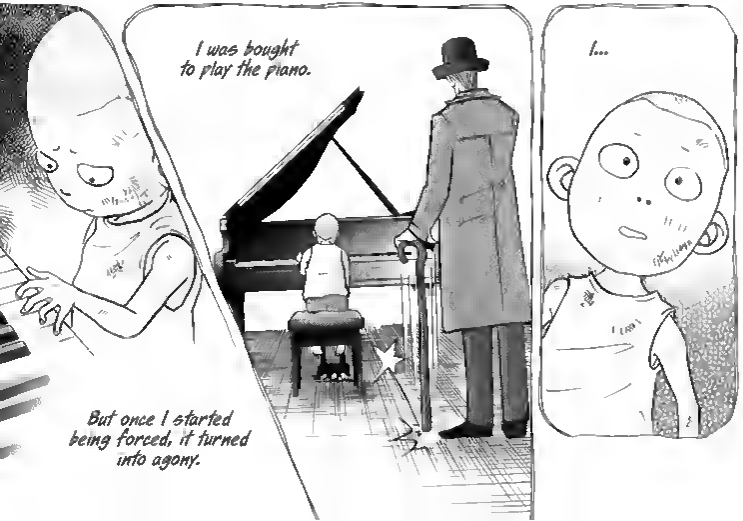
He bought me for 100 yuan.



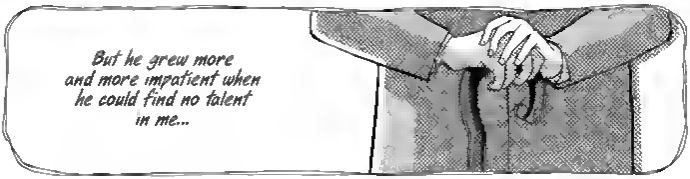


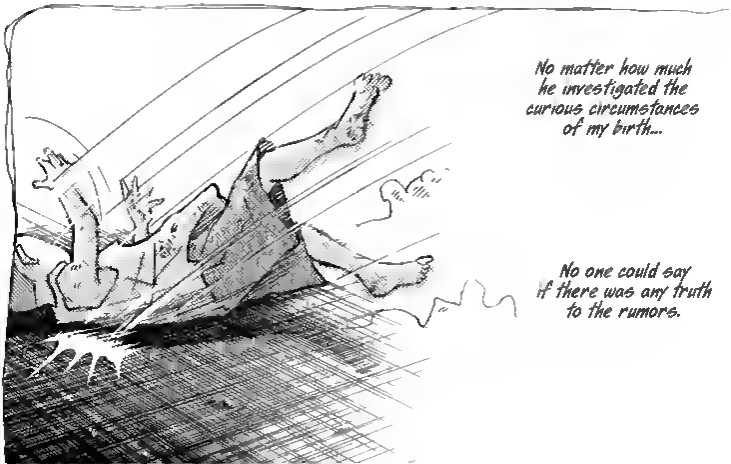

Therefore, he tried to get involved with more refined things in the cultural circles...

To him, the piano was one of them.


I was bought to play the piano.
But once I started being forced, it turned into agony.
I...

Hao Pang did everything to make me play the piano.


But he grew more and more impatient when he could find no talent in me...


No matter how much he investigated the curious circumstances of my birth...
No one could say if there was any truth to the rumors.

Even your own mother rejected you piece of trash!

You are an unwanted kid!

Because I failed to live up to his expectations, he abused me every single day.

Worthless people should just die!!

Ever thought about being a person worth something?
Well, brat?
Then die!
If you can't play the piano, then die!!
Die!!

Hao Pang, who only put his money on my for my potential...

Really meant it.

Even so, my 'tragedy'...

Came to an end when
I met Ajino Sousuke.

Ajino's piano...

Ajino's piano was...
A single spider's thread reaching down into the very depths of Hell.
Heaven and Hell END

PIANO NO MORI

by ISSHIKI Makoto
一色まこと

If you like this manga please support its creators by buying a copy of the original book.

Piano no Mori ch 155

Credits
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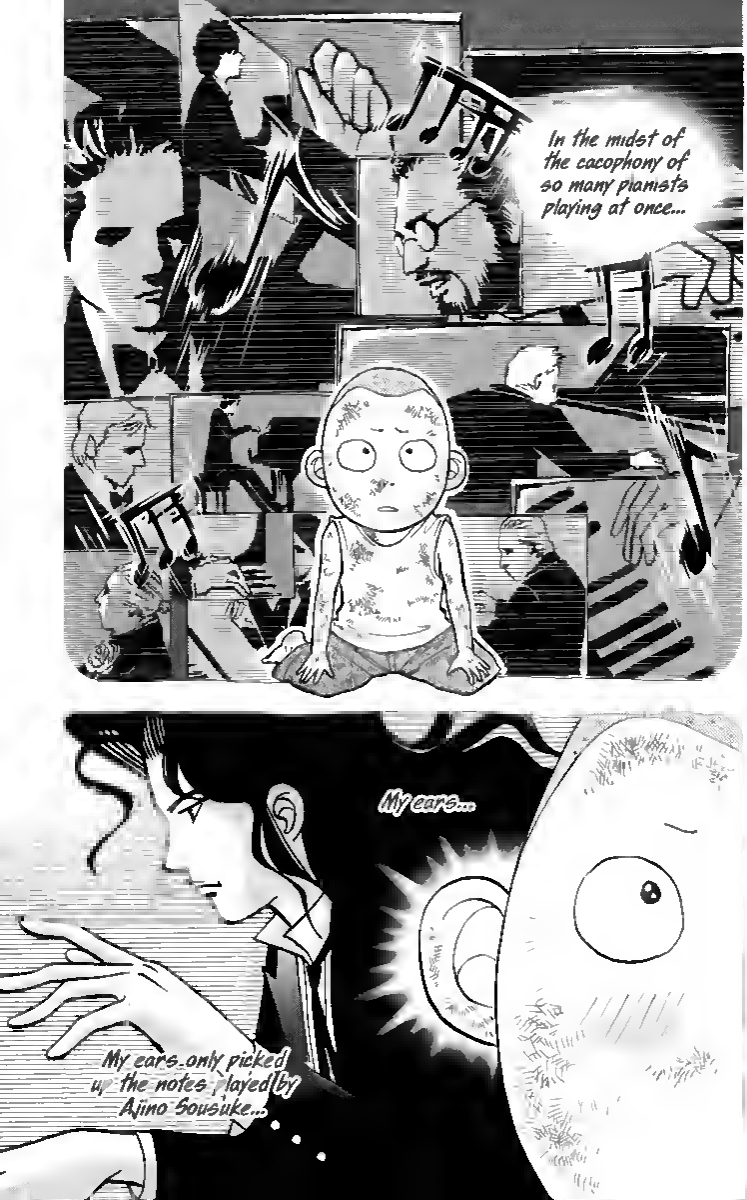
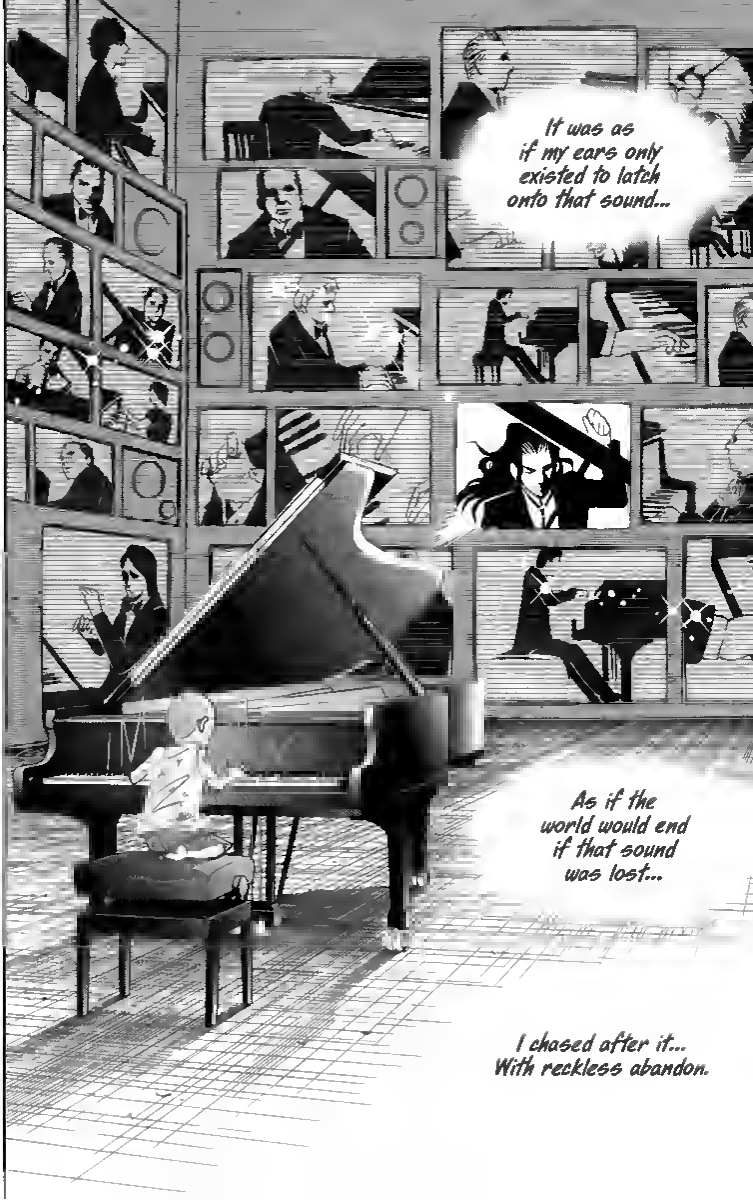
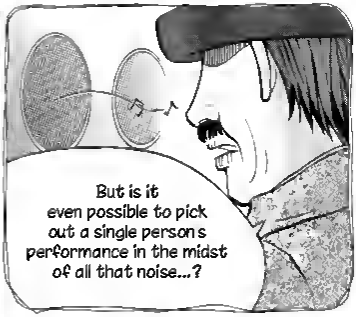

In the midst of the cacophony of so many pianists playing at once...
My ears...
My ears only picked up the notes played by Ajino Sousuke...


It was as if my ears only existed to latch onto that sound...
As if the world would end if that sound was lost...
I chased after it... With reckless abandon.

Hoho... So the brat has chosen a Japanese pianist... Ajino Sousuke, huh.



Chapter 156 My Unique Piano

There should be another way...

I can't reach the key...

I just have to work harder.

As long as I work harder...

Oh... Are my hands too small?

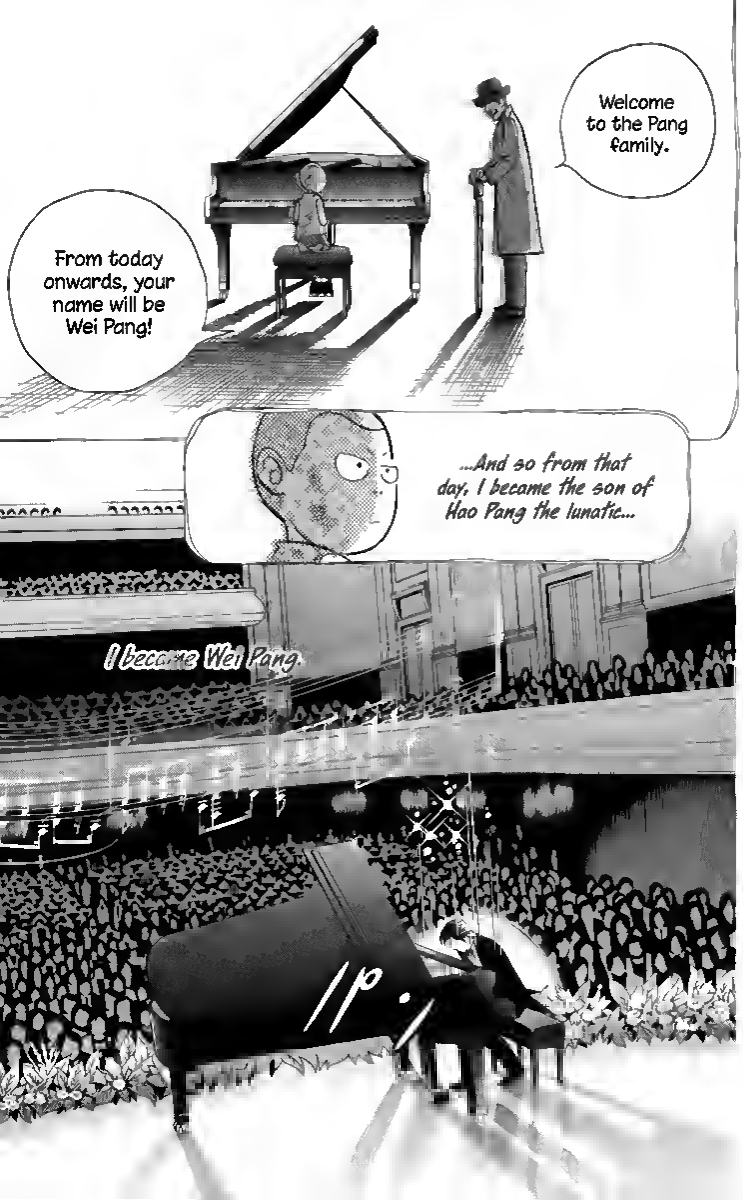
But no matter how many notes I missed...
I kept playing as if I were possessed...
It was this very piece... Chopin's Polonaise No.5, Op.44.

The excitement I felt when I was first introduced to Ajimo Gousuke.....
Are all deeply ingrained in this song...
The feeling of my blood boiling in my veins...
The exaltation that ran through my entire body for the first time...

And then...
I'm glad I didn't kill you, Wei Pang!
Hahaha...

You're no longer "Bomb".

?


Welcome to the Pang family.
From today onwards, your name will be Wei Pang!
...And so from that day, I became the son of Hao Pang the lunatic...
I became Wei Pang.

I can sense the audience's soundless exhilaration...

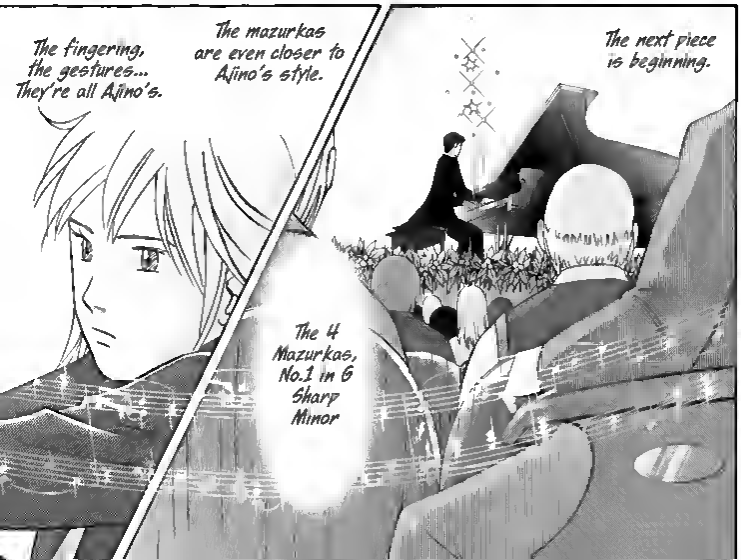
Wei Pang's first piece, the Polonaise, has come to an end...

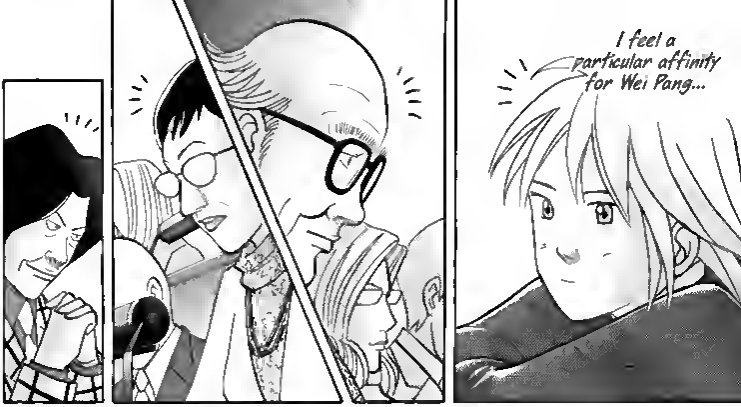
My entire body is trembling uncontrollably.

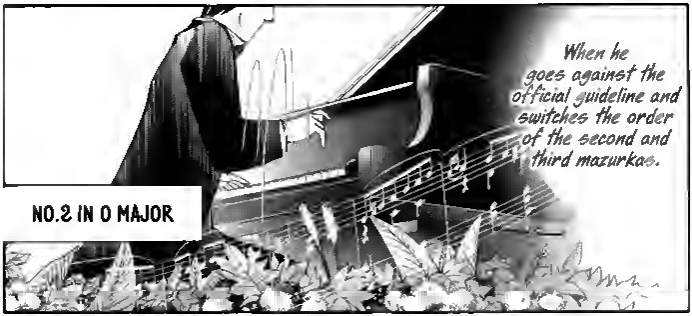
Haha, I'm completely fine.

Are... Are you alright?

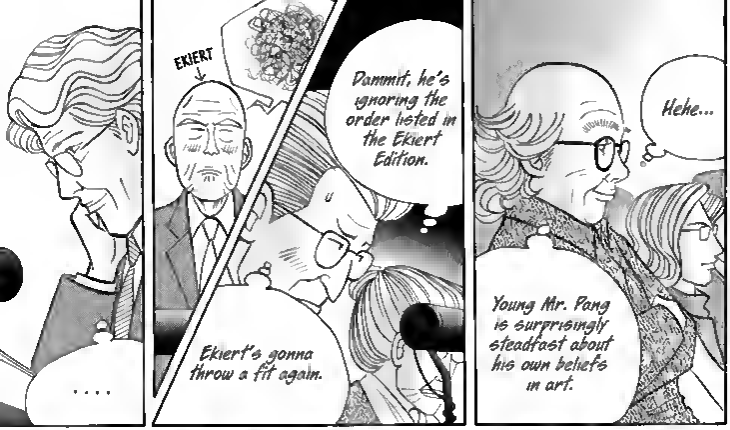
I become extremely conscious of Ajino sitting in the audience. I crouch to better concentrate on listening to his performance.
Every time I find Ajino's scent in Wei Pang's piano,
But then, I can't see Ajino from down here.


The fingering, the gestures... They're all Ajino's.
The mazurkas are even closer to Ajino's style.
The next piece is beginning.
The 4 Mazurkas, No.1 in G Sharp Minor

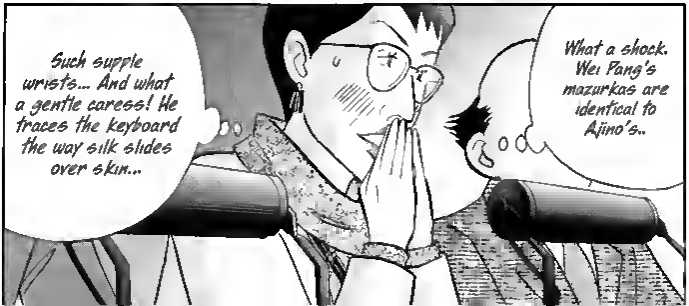

I feel a particular affinity for Wei Pang...


When he goes against the official guideline and switches the order of the second and third mazurkas.
NO.2 IN D MAJOR

Had I chosen the same opus,
I would probably play in this order as well.
NO.3 IN C MAJOR

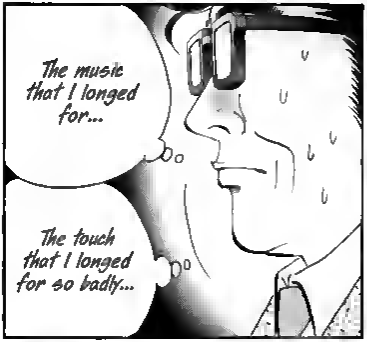

....
EKIERT
Dammit, he's ignoring the order listed in the Ekiert Edition.
Ekiert's gonna throw a fit again.
Hehe...
Young Mr. Pang is surprisingly steadfast about his own beliefs in art.

NO.4 IN B MINOR

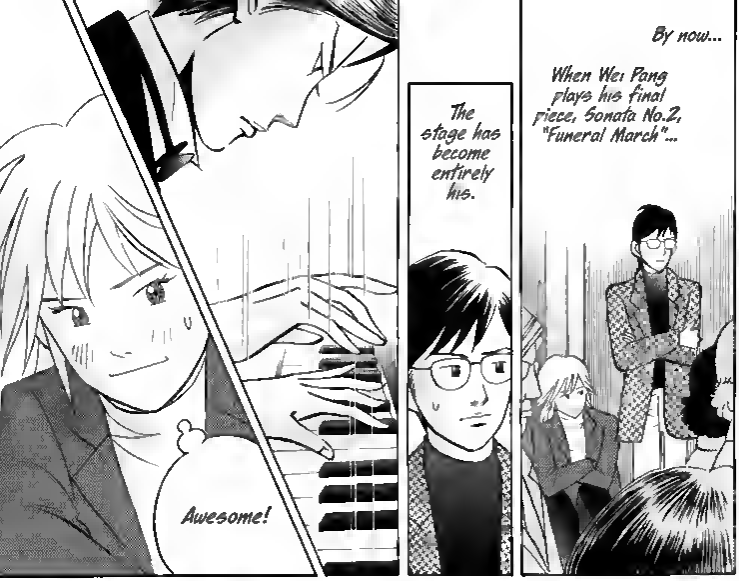

Such supple wrists... And what a gentle caress! He traces the keyboard the way silk slides over skin...
What a shock. Wei Pang's mazurkas are identical to Ajino's...

How graceful...

Youichirou must be really surprised.



They're all mastered by this boy...?!!



You're awesome, Wei Pang!

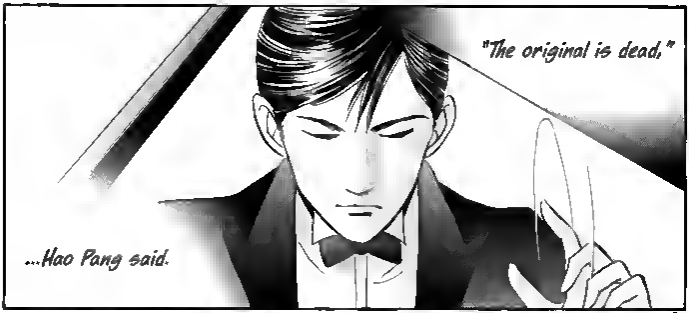
I've never listened to...

Such a poignant,

Exquisite Funeral March!

Wei Pang has already turned it into his own original creation...
But with such overwhelming despair...
This "Funeral March" might be played using Ajino-sensei as groundwork...

It's honestly beautiful.


"The original is dead,"
...Hao Pang said.

Ajino Sousuke is a Japanese...
Who'll never be a pianist again due to a car accident...

You're not just Ajino's copy... You'll become the original!

Well, if he'd been in the way, I would've got rid of him...

Ahaha... Isn't that convenient?!

Ajino is practically a deadman!

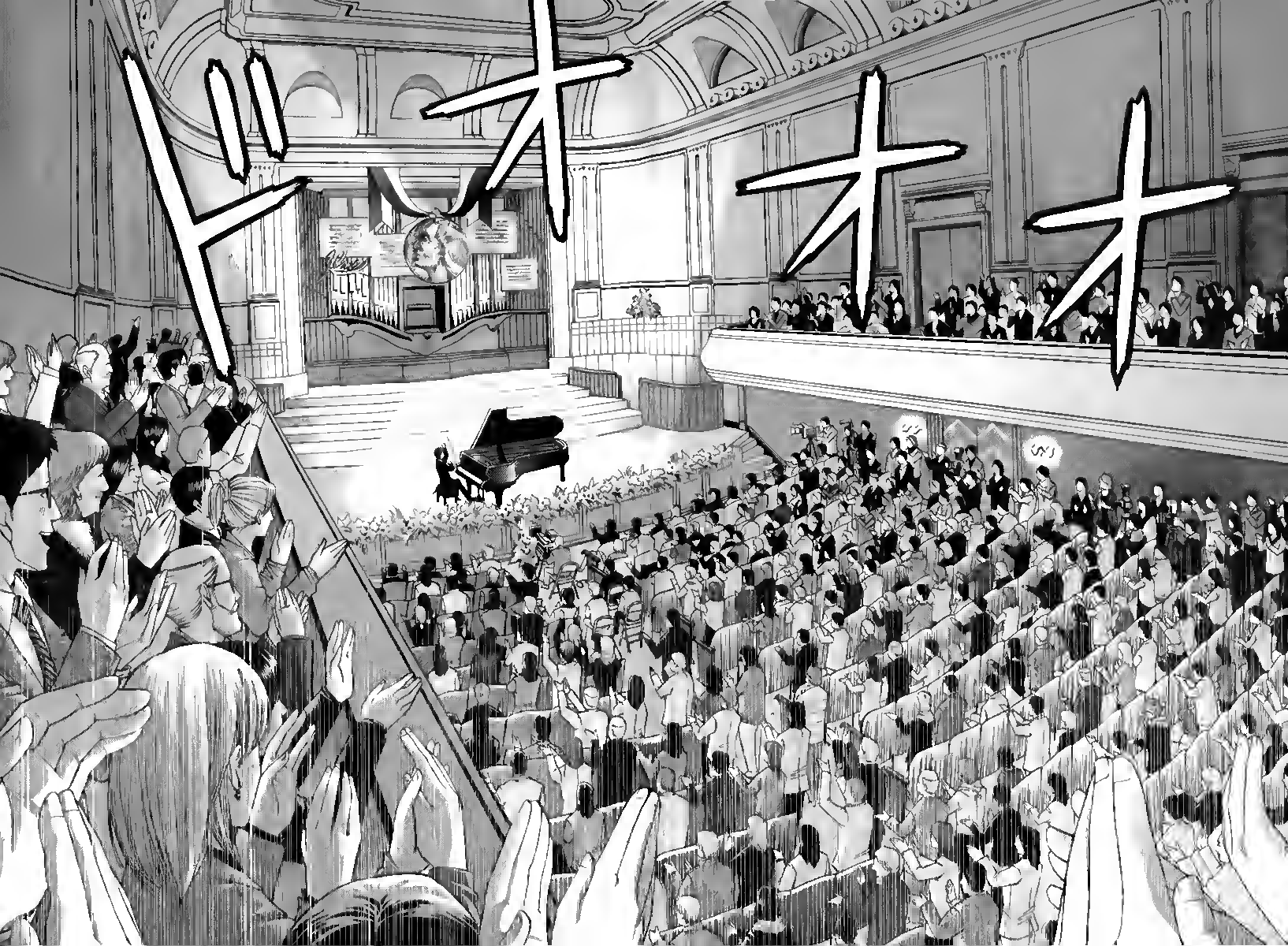
Obliterate Ajino Sousuke's piano with your own!!

Turn it into a unique piano that only belongs to Wei Pang!

Don't fuck with me, Hao Pang!

My piano is unique even if you hadn't said a thing!

Successor that has inherited Ajino Sousuke's piano!!
Since I...
Am the one and only...
But I'm not obliterating Ajino's piano...
Kyaa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To be continued in Volume 18

About Chopin's Sheet Music

BY SHIMODA KOJI (MUSIC CRITIC, PIANIST)

There are many editions of Chopin's sheet music printed by different publishers. You may wonder, "If Chopin's so famous, then these editions are all pretty much the same, right?" That is, in fact, a misconception.

When Chopin published his works, they were often printed simultaneously in France, Germany, Britain and several other countries. Since that was an era with no photocopiers or fax machines, simultaneous printing would require multiple copies of manuscripts written in Chopin's own hand, or sometimes in an assistant's hand, which is why there could be major or minor discrepancies in the notes, accents, beats, pedaling*, ornamentation, arpeggios**, phrasing***, etc. among these manuscripts. Moreover, with the emergence of third-hand copies derived from the initial manuscripts as well as new versions edited by subsequent experts (who made amendments to intelligible notes and printing mistakes present in previous copies and proposed fingering technique), more divergence occurred among different editions.

In order to bring an end to such confusion, there are a lot of "urtext editions", which boast of being the "original" editions, these days. "Original" can mean many things, but I believe an urtext edition should be scores compiled using first-hand materials like Chopin's own manuscripts and other published scores edited by Chopin himself.

The problem of editions has also been touched upon in "Piano no Mori", albeit with alteration to the names. In the non-fictional musical circle, commonly used editions include the Paderewski Edition, the National Edition edited by Jan Ekier, the Henle Edition, the Wiener Urtext Edition, the Cortot Edition, the Mikuli Edition, the Dulin Edition, the Peters Edition, etc. The most important ones would be the first three.

The Paderewski Edition uses the original scores as groundwork and is supplemented with second-hand materials like manuscripts and published scores written in another hand when certain information is missing from the urtext. It was also edited with modern musical theories and score annotations in mind. Since it was first published in 1949, the limitation of the information provided due to the restrictions of the original scores would be its weakness, especially as more original scores were discovered in recent years. In spite of that, I believe there's still an extremely high credibility to this edition as it was edited through very devout research.

One of the most renowned editions in recent years is the National Edition, which is still in print to this day. Its goal was to become an urtext edition with even more references to the original scores than the Paderewski Edition. It was compiled through research led by Professor Jan Ekier, with a huge amount of respect for Chopin s own annotations. It also made use of the shorthand manuscripts written by Chopin s students during their lessons to help compile the final product, which is to say, this edition has retained all the quintessence that performers need to remember.

Like the National Edition, the Henle Edition thoroughly researched and tried to preserve the urtext as much as possible, though some of the clefs have been rewritten using modern annotation methods. Due to its lack of an edition report, the unclear editing approach would be its weakness, though that seems to have been remedied lately.

In the actual rules of the International Chopin Competition, it is stated that, "While it is permitted to use the texts contained in all available editions of Chopin s works, contestants are recommended to use the urtext in The National Edition of the Works of Fryderyk Chopin edited by prof. Jan Ekier." This particular rule has caused heated debates among supporters of the Paderewski Edition, who wish to safeguard Chopin's traditional style, and those who prefer the more up-to-date National Edition.

*pedaling = the use of pedals. Modern grand pianos have three pedals. Using the right pedal (damper pedal) increases expressivity, but the resonance can be greatly affected depending on when one uses/releases the pedal, how much force one applies to it, etc. Using the left one (una corda) shifts the hammers and alters where they pound on the strings, softening the timbre. Using the middle pedal (sostenuto pedal) only sustains the notes being played with no effect on other keys. Pedaling refers to the use of all three pedals, but in most cases, it only specifically refers to the use of the damper pedal. Also, the middle pedal on upright pianos has the muffling function for one to practice quietly at night.

**arpeggios = a musical technique where notes in a chord are played in sequence, rather than together simultaneously. For instance, one does not play do-mi-so as a chord, but do → mi → so, separately, one after the other.

***phrasing = the way notes are grouped together to convey a more or less complete musical thought, which may sound complicated, but it's actually just how one breaks up the flow of notes. For example, one can play do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti-do as [do-re-mi + fa-so-la-ti-do], or as [do-re-mi-fa-so + la-ti-do]. The musical expression varies with different ways of grouping the notes. Phrasing is usually indicated with slurs on sheet music.

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